

# CHRONOLOGY OF INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND DOCUMENTS

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**ARAB LEAGUE.** 21 Mar.—*Palestine.* The League, which had been meeting in Beirut, decided that, in view of the U.S. proposals (see p. 237) they would insist on their original proposals at the London Conference; namely, the institution of a democratic government guaranteeing minority rights to Jews, and accepting entry to Arab countries of Jews now in Cyprus. They accepted trusteeship for a few months only, to give a chance to the United Nations organization to arrange final status, and refused any plan to form a Jewish State.

**Yemen.** The League recognized Sayf-ul-Islam Ahmad (see p. 155) as Imam of the Yemen.

**ANTARCTIC.** 2 Apr.—*Wyatt Earp* returns (see *Australia*).

**ARGENTINA.** 24 Mar.—Refusal to join I.T.O. (see *United Nations*).  
3 Apr.—Trade agreement (see *Spain*).

**AUSTRALIA.** 24 Mar.—*Queensland.* Legislation approving the establishment of a joint British and Queensland food corporation was passed through all stages in the State Parliament. The Prime Minister, Mr Hanlon, in reply to critics of the measure, said that Australia had an obligation to become the food supplier for famine-stricken countries. 'With our small population we are holding an immense area and nobody can pretend that our vast spaces have been fully used.'

1 Apr.—Offer of wool (see *United Nations Secretariat*).

2 Apr.—*Antarctic.* The exploration ship, *Wyatt Earp* returned after a 7,000-mile cruise, during which members of the crew landed on Heard Island and the Balleny Islands.

*Queensland Railway Strike.* The Trades Hall disputes committee (Communist-dominated) decided to accept the Government's terms and return to work.

8 Apr.—*Japan.* The Minister for External Affairs, Dr Evatt, referred to the Government's deep concern over the failure to conclude a peace settlement with Japan. He considered the reason for the lack of any renewed attempt to procure a peace conference was the U.S. fear that the U.S.S.R. would claim the right of veto; but even the existence of such a veto need not preclude the conclusion of peace. In recent months there had been a change in U.S. feeling towards the application of the principles of the Potsdam declaration to a Japanese peace settlement. Some U.S. statesmen and economists were in favour of the preservation or restoration of Japanese industrial strength—which might mean that Japan would be enabled to re-arm so that she might be used in any future struggle between the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. It would be an evil day for Australia were Japan enabled to re-arm, for the safety of the Commonwealth could not be secured against a repetition of the events of 1942 if the broad principles of the Potsdam declaration were not applied. That did not mean that Japan must be enslaved or deprived of a reasonable standard of living, though that should not be higher than the standards of the countries she had overrun; but she must be prevented from doing anything that might enable her to re-establish an arsenal

which might be turned against the South Pacific. The change in the U.S. attitude was due to fears and suspicions between her and the U.S.S.R., which, if not allayed, might operate to the grave disadvantage of Australia. If power politics, or fears and suspicions, were allowed to govern the situation there would not be peace with Japan, though probably it would not take more than a few days to effect a peace settlement. The Japanese situation was a by-product of the similar world situation. Were a European peace conference called now on a broader basis than that of only the great Powers, there would be more hope of agreement than when only three Governments met, for in a larger conference the small nations might influence a settlement. Peace could be maintained by the United Nations organization, but it had to be made first. Dispute after dispute came before the United Nations which could be settled by the Powers if they made peace as readily as they had established the United Nations.

**AUSTRIA.** 19 Mar.—A time bomb exploded in an hotel run by the British Control Commission; one Argentine woman was killed and ten members of the B.C.C. staff injured.

6 Apr.—*Peace Treaty.* The Cabinet decided to set up a special committee, consisting of all the economic Ministries, delegates from both Houses of Parliament, and from the Chambers of Commerce, Trade, Industry, and Workers, to survey Austria's ability to pay the sums which the Council of Foreign Ministers agree upon as a forfeit for the Soviet renunciation of their claims to German assets. Dr Gruber emphasized that any formula hammered out by the four Powers might have to be examined with reference to Austria's financial capacity.

**BALUCHISTAN.** 27 Mar.—The Khanate of Kalat acceded to Pakistan.

**BELGIUM.** 24 Mar.—*Western Union.* The Senate ratified the Treaty of Brussels by 138 votes to 15 (Communist).

31 Mar.—The British C.I.G.S., Lord Montgomery, arrived on a visit.

3 Apr.—The Prince Regent, with the Prime Minister and Minister of National Reconstruction, left for a visit to the U.S.A. and Canada.

**BRAZIL.** 1 Apr.—President Dutra stopped the export from Brazil of all foodstuffs except coffee. (The action was taken under a law passed by Congress in February placing export and import trade under Government control.) Imports were limited to essential goods.

**BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AERONAUTICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL.** 2 Apr.—The inaugural meeting was opened at Canberra by the Australian Minister of Defence, Mr Dedman.

**BRITISH WEST INDIES.** 1 Apr.—Combined exercises were completed by the America and West Indian Squadrons of the Royal Navy and ships of the Royal Canadian Navy.

**BURMA.** 28 Mar.—*Communism.* The Prime Minister, Thakin Nu, announced the launching of an intensive campaign against the Communists, who, he said, were shouting for unity while striving to undermine law and order and discredit the Government.

The headquarters of the Burma Communist Party were later raided and arrests made.

**CANADA.** 24 Mar.—The House of Commons approved a Bill extending to 31 March 1949 the authority for agricultural products to be shipped to Britain under present contracts.

1 Apr.—*Extension of credit (see Great Britain).*

2 Apr.—*Atomic Energy.* The A. E. Control Board revealed that uranium ore had been discovered near Flin Flon, Manitoba.

5 Apr.—The cost-of-living index showed that costs had risen by 49·6 per cent since August 1939, and were the highest since 1920.

**CHINA.** 28 Mar.—General Chiang Kai-shek, speaking to the People's Political Council after it announced unanimous support for him as China's first constitutional President, said: 'I have committed many blunders during the past ten years, but the worst was my tolerance towards the Communists during the war with Japan. I allowed them to take part in the People's Political Council and gave them other privileges which resulted in our present civil war.' (The Council was formed ten years ago as an advisory group to the Government.)

4 Apr.—*Presidential Election.* Gen. Chiang Kai-shek announced that he would not stand for the Presidency.

5 Apr.—Government troops defending Chanchung, capital of Manchuria, were reported to have pushed back Communist troops some miles and recaptured several strongholds to the north-west of the city. A Communist drive further south on the north bank of Liao River, forty miles north of Mukden, was reported to have been checked by strong Government counter-attacks.

*Presidential election.* The Kuomintang central standing committee decided to draft Gen. Chiang Kai-shek as Presidential candidate in spite of his announcement that he would not seek re-election.

**COSTA RICA.** 21 Mar.—It was understood that the Government had complained to Guatemala that the rebels had been getting rifles and ammunition from that country.

**COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS.** 23 Mar.—*Austrian Treaty.* Mr Koktomov (U.S.S.R.), Chairman, read a long statement alleging that the other deputies had shown no desire to co-operate in reaching agreement.

26 Mar.—*Austrian Treaty.* Mr Koktomov, asked on what basis the Soviet delegation had claimed \$200 million in respect of former German assets in Austria, replied that this figure was very much less than the value of German assets to be returned to Austria. Mr Reber (U.S.A.) questioned how this figure could be related to Austria's capacity to pay.

and after Gen. Cherrière (France) explained a proposal for the payment of a lump sum of \$100 million spread over ten years, the British deputy, Mr Marjoribanks, asked for the value of the assets to be returned to Austria under the Soviet proposal. The Soviet deputy was unwilling to produce this figure.

31 Mar.—*Austrian Treaty.* Mr Koktomov said the U.S.S.R. was now ready to accept \$150 million in part settlement of its claim for German assets. The three western deputies expressed appreciation of the Soviet concession but emphasized that they must still apply the criteria on which they had insisted throughout the negotiations: that Austria's ability to pay must be proved; and that there must be a settlement on German assets as a whole before any single part could be accepted.

1 Apr.—*Austrian Treaty.* Mr Marjoribanks said that before the British delegation could agree on a figure for the lump sum there were four fundamental conditions. These were: (1) that there should be a satisfactory agreement on the assets to be taken over by the U.S.S.R.; (2) a factual estimate of Austria's capacity to pay; (3) a satisfactory solution of the question of the liabilities attaching to German assets; and (4) that no reparations shall be paid by Austria. Mr Reber (U.S.A.) also thought that the question of reparations was relevant to the lump sum payment. He also reaffirmed his delegation's opinion that the lump sum must be related to the settlement of the assets to be taken over by the U.S.S.R. and to Austria's ability to pay. Gen. Cherrière said that he was pleased that the difference between the French and Soviet proposals for the lump sum payment had been narrowed. He was prepared to raise the French figure further if it could be shown how Austria could pay. He had already raised the French figure by \$15 million to \$115 million provided the extra amount was paid out of assets outside Austria. He regretted that the U.S.S.R. had made no suggestions as to how Austria should pay, for it seemed to him that there was, on this question, the possibility of agreement.

5 Apr.—*Austrian Treaty.* The deputies reached broad agreement on three points: (1) that the U.S.S.R. should receive an allocation of existing properties with a production capacity of 58-60 per cent of present output; (2) the U.S.S.R. should hold the rights to the oil production for thirty years, for exploration eight years, plus twenty-five years for production from the explored areas; (3) refineries with an existing capacity of 420,000 tons a year should pass to Soviet possession. In discussion on the assets of the Danube Shipping Co., Mr Koktomov said that the U.S.S.R. was prepared to limit its claim to all assets in Eastern Austria, plus those outside Austria. In discussion on the Soviet claim for a lump payment, the western deputies expressed willingness to go above the figure of \$100 million. Any increase would depend on Austrian assets abroad and on arrangements for paying in goods as well as dollars.

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA.** 19 Mar.—Dr Clementis (Communist) was appointed Foreign Minister in succession to Mr Masaryk.

21 Mar.—Some 4 million persons worked a 'victory shift' in honour of the 'February revolution'.

22 Mar.—It was stated that Mgr Sramek and Mgr Hala, both Ministers in the previous Government, had been arrested on a charge of attempting to escape from the country.

23 Mar.—*Foreign Policy.* The Foreign Minister, Dr Clementis, said the policy of Czechoslovakia now, as in the past, was to look after its security against any possible revival of Germany and its eventual allies. Czechoslovakia still strove to attain sincere international co-operation and to oppose anything that might circumvent U.N. authority or introduce into normal economic relations any political implications. This was the reason for its stand against the Marshall Plan, which, moreover, favoured Germany in a most dangerous manner.

*Socialist Conference.* The Social Democratic Party announced its withdrawal from the Socialist International Organization, and accused western Socialists of betraying the working classes of their countries.

24 Mar.—Ambassador resigns (*see France*).

26 Mar.—It was announced that Dr Prochozka, the former Minister of Health, who was understood to be abroad, would be tried on a charge of plotting against the State.

31 Mar.—The Government lodged an energetic protest with the French Government and asked for the 'immediate withdrawal' of certain members of their Embassy staff in Prague who were accused of having tried to help two former Ministers, Mgr Sramek and Mgr Hala, to escape by air. The statement said that the incident clearly proved that the Ministers who resigned at the time of the crisis 'had acted with the support of western official circles', and clearly showed 'that a foreign Power intervened in Czechoslovak internal affairs'.

1 Apr.—U.S.S.R. President Benes received the new Ambassador, Mr Silin, who declared that feelings of mutual friendship, 'fortified by the alliance of 1943', formed the basis of the relations between the two countries. They would never forget the danger of renewed German aggression and would deeply and sincerely endeavour to fortify lasting peace and safeguard European security. Peace and security were all the more necessary to their two nations because their main efforts were devoted to tasks of economic development and raising the living and cultural standards of the masses.

President Benes, in his reply, welcomed the opportunity to recall and emphasize the meaning of the Czechoslovak-Soviet alliance as the concrete expression of the deep friendship animating the two nations. He said he was in agreement with the Ambassador's statement that the two nations were imbued with the desire to strengthen European peace and security and to create economic prosperity and enrich cultural development. That, he said, was their joint peace programme, which they would safeguard especially from the danger of renewed German aggression.

Lease of Polish port (*see Poland*).

2 Apr.—*Militia. Rude Pravo* announced that the workers' militia (*see p. 152*) was to be legalized as a permanent auxiliary police force.

*Elections.* An official announcement of the rules listed those who would 'not be allowed to play any part in the political life of the country', as (1) collaborators with the Germans who either had been tried and

sentenced or were to be tried or retried; (2) those who had spoken against the 'people's democratic order', producers of illegal publications, organizers of listening to foreign broadcasts, etc.; (3) saboteurs etc.; (4) profiteers from public office.

5 Apr.—The first clandestine newspaper to be published in Prague since the German occupation began circulation. It was a weekly called *Prijedeme* (We are coming!).

7 Apr.—*Benes Speech*. The President, speaking at the celebrations of the 600th anniversary of the Charles University, said: 'Three years after the most terrible war in human history, the peace that we yearn for with all our hearts does not exist between the nations. If this natural human yearning, along with the desire for freedom of belief, science, thought, and vocation, is to be fulfilled, it is imperative to cultivate and to attain a universal freedom of the spirit—the essential condition of all genuine spiritual life. This freedom, which is founded on man's respect for man and on common tolerance, and which has always had its home in our university, will, God willing, lead the Charles University once more, and all of us with it, to a truly prosperous and happy future.'

EAST AFRICA. 6 Apr.—The new Central Legislative Assembly of East Africa met for the first time in Nairobi.

EGYPT. 19 Mar.—*Yemen*. The new Prime Minister of the Yemen, Sayf-ul-Islam Abdullah, arrived in Cairo and was received by the King. He later defined the policy of his Government to the press as one of reform and construction.

5 Apr.—*Police Strike*. The police went on strike demanding better pay and conditions. The Army took over control of traffic and police posts. In Alexandria mobs set fire to six cinemas, and tried to smash up large shops; fifteen persons were killed and one hundred injured in clashes with the Army. Many trams and buses were set on fire and a train was attacked and looted. A curfew was later imposed, and the Army were given orders to shoot looters on sight. In Cairo police toured the city urging support for their action. The Government issued a statement ordering all police to return to duty on pain of dismissal. They stated that the ringleaders of the strike would be tried by special courts. They banned all references in the press to incidents of the day.

6 Apr.—*Police Strike*. The police returned to duty. There were further incidents in Alexandria and four persons were killed and 150 injured. Official figures gave the casualties during the disturbances as 29 killed and 220 injured. A number of police who refused to return to duty were interned. Two Wafdist papers and the Kolta Party organ were confiscated for printing news of the strike.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION. 23 Mar.—*Customs Union*. The study group ended its third session in Brussels. It agreed on a programme of work for the economic committee which was to meet on 18 May in Brussels to consider the probable effects of the tariff changes involved in forming a Customs Union.

7 Apr.—*Manpower*. The report of the manpower conference (see pp. 77 and 112) estimated that there were in western Europe at least 2½ million persons available for work, including 1,700,000 in Italy and 300,000 in displaced persons' camps in Germany and Austria. Of these the western Governments considered they could find work for 380,700 in 1948. Obstacles to recruiting this labour included lack of housing, problems of transferring savings to families abroad, and lack of a uniform system of classifying the various jobs workers said they could do. The report reminded countries outside Europe of the 'necessity' to revive considerable overseas emigration.

8 Apr.—*Manpower*. A permanent manpower committee was established in Rome.

**EUROPEAN RECOVERY PROGRAMME.** 21 Mar.—*Socialist Conference*. The representatives of the Socialist Parties of countries taking part in the E.R.P. met in England. The Saragat group of Italian Socialists were represented but not the Nenni group. The French delegation pressed for a great propaganda campaign, for a permanent organization, and for a conference of European Socialist parties, trade unions, and progressives before The Hague conference to enable opinion to be massed and give a Socialist direction to western union. This was defeated and a more limited conference of Socialist parties in Paris preferred. The conference also discussed what conditions could make the Marshall plan unacceptable. (See also *International Socialist Conference*.)

**FINLAND.** 6 Apr.—Treaty with U.S.S.R. (see *U.S.S.R.*).

**FRANCE.** 20 Mar.—*Trieste*. Three-Power Proposal (see *Italy*). Customs union and trade agreements (see *Italy*).

22 Mar.—*Trieste*. Note to the three Powers (see *Yugoslavia*).

24 Mar.—*Czechoslovakia*. The Ambassador, Mr Nosek, informed the Government that he had resigned from his post.

1 Apr.—*Madagascar*. Statement by Governor-General (see *Madagascar*).

4 Apr.—*Algeria*. Elections took place for the first local Assembly of Algeria. In clashes between Republican Guards and demonstrators near Aumale seven persons were killed.

*Wage Claims*. A meeting convened by the C.G.T. of delegates from works committees in all branches of industry voted in favour of obtaining greater power for works committees and reaffirmed the claim for a 20 per cent increase in wages (already put forward by the Communists of the C.G.T.).

5 Apr.—*European Recovery Programme*. Bidault message (see *Great Britain*).

6 Apr.—*Germany*. The Government, in reply to the Soviet Note of 8 March (see p. 121), rejected the protest. They stated the talks had been arranged to settle urgent questions, the settlement of which had been prevented by lack of agreement in the Control Council and the Council of Foreign Ministers. Their proposals for a German peace

treaty, and for the creation of central economic bodies, were always refused by the U.S.S.R. Where democratization was concerned, there had been free elections in the French zone with all parties participating, 'which is not the case in all the zones of Germany'. The Soviet charge that France was following an American war-mongering policy was as 'inexact as it is tendentious'. After summarizing the French position on Germany, the Note concluded: 'The facts reply for themselves to the impudent assertions which try to distort that position.'

7 Apr.—*Strikes.* To guard against any widespread labour unrest or any general outbreak of disorders involving the severance of communications between the capital and various regions, the Government appointed eight 'inspectors-general on a special mission'. They were delegates of the Minister of the Interior and of the Government, with full powers in case of need. In particular, all police or military forces used for the maintenance of order come under their control (as they came under the control of the Minister of the Interior during the November strikes).

*North Africa.* Gen. Juin was appointed C.-in-C. North Africa. He would hold this post as well as that of Resident-General in Morocco.

8 Apr.—*Economic Talks.* The Anglo-French mixed economic committee held talks concerned with the increasing indebtedness of the franc to the sterling area.

**GERMANY.** 20 Mar.—*Allied Control Council.* After alleging that the western Powers were undermining quadripartite government in Germany and seeking to make it impossible, Marshal Sokolovsky and the Soviet delegation walked out of the council's meeting.

22 Mar.—*Berlin.* Gen. Clay, the U.S. Military Governor, stated: 'We came into Berlin by right, and we have every intention of staying. . . . The allied control authority in Berlin has not accomplished anything in the past year. I do not see how the Russians can block things more effectively by postponement of meetings than they have done by attendance.'

23 Mar.—*Allied Control Council.* It was announced separately by the British, U.S., and French authorities that their representatives would not be able to attend meetings of quadripartite directorates and committee until the Council had met to consider the position created by the meeting of 20 March. This did not apply to the *Kommendatura*.

*Berlin City Assembly.* The Chairman, Dr Suhr (S.P.D.), said that he had received instructions from the Soviet Commandant to repress all anti-Soviet propaganda in the Assembly in future. He did not see how they could comply with such an instruction. He was not willing to become the custodian of one of the occupying powers and did not intend to act as censor of the members of the Assembly. He himself held the Soviet Commandant's proposals to be impracticable, and if the Assembly thought otherwise he was prepared to resign his office. The Assembly approved a proposal that the situation created by the Soviet instruction should be considered by the Standing Orders Committee, and unanimously accepted a resolution moved by the S.E.D. that the *Kommendatura*

*tura* should be asked to receive a deputation from the Assembly with a view to securing an explanation of the Soviet instruction. A motion of confidence in Dr Suhr was passed by the votes of the S.P.D., C.D.U., and L.D.P.

*U.S. Zone.* White House decision (see *U.S.A.*).

24 Mar.—*Berlin City Assembly.* Frau Leber (S.P.D.), in a broadcast message, declared: 'At bottom the S.E.D. wish for Berlin the same fate as Prague and for us its opponents the same end that Petkov met at the hand of Dimitrov.' Berlin was not lost and would not be lost. The mass of its citizens would not be rattled in the present war of nerves. She urged that rumours of war and of a withdrawal of the Western Allies should be discounted.

30 Mar.—*Allied Control Council.* It was stated by British Military Government that the British and other western delegations had agreed to attend a meeting of the Council that day but that the Soviet element, as hosts for the month, had refused to issue invitations.

31 Mar.—*Berlin.* The Soviet Deputy Military Governor, Gen. Dratvin, in a letter to the British, U.S., and French chiefs, announced that, as from the following day, new regulations for the control of traffic between Berlin and the west would come into force. Documents establishing the identity of the holders and the fact that they belonged to agencies of the military administrations in Germany would have to be presented at various check-points, where all property, except personal belongings, would be examined.

The British Deputy Military Governor, General Brownjohn, replying to the letter, said that, though the British authorities were perfectly ready to co-operate in drawing up regulations for the organization and control of traffic in and out of Berlin, it was not possible to issue instructions within twenty-four hours. He urged that there should be a delay of fifteen days so that all the Powers might meet and agree on new regulations.

The U.S. Chief of Staff, Gen. Gailey, in his reply, declared: 'The agreement under which we entered Berlin clearly provided for our free and unrestricted utilization of the established corridors. This right was a condition precedent to our entry into Berlin and our simultaneous evacuation of Saxony and Thuringia. I do not consider that the provisions you now propose are consistent with this agreement. I must also advise you that we do not propose to accept changes in this agreement.' He recognized the right of the Russians to check identification papers of travellers by road, but said this right was not applicable to military passengers and goods trains. He was prepared to discuss the matter further, 'although not on twenty-four hours' notice'. In the meantime the Russians would not be permitted to enter military trains.

1 Apr.—*Berlin.* The Deputy Military Governor received the British Deputy Military Governor, who insisted that the British authorities would not allow Soviet officers to board military trains and to enter compartments to check the personal papers of the passengers.

The British and U.S. authorities suspended all rail services between their zones and Berlin, and instituted special air services in their place.

Soviet soldiers established a military post with a barrier at a crossroad just inside the British section of Berlin, near Gatow. They seized certain British vehicles and detained the drivers. The British authorities closed the roads around the post and demanded the withdrawal of the troops, who did later withdraw.

The British, U.S., and French Governors met to consider the Soviet measures.

*Coal.* The average price was raised from RM 15 to RM 25 per ton.

*Steel.* The average price of raw steel was increased by RM 66 per ton.

*2 Apr.—Berlin.* The British authorities instituted a service of buses between Berlin and the British zone until train services should be restored. The U.S. authorities were using aircraft for passenger traffic, but it was officially stated that normal freight services were operating between Berlin and the zones.

At the meeting of deputy commandants Col. Yelizarov (U.S.S.R.) read a long statement giving a list of 300 enterprises which, it was alleged, had been transferred from their sectors of Berlin to their zones by the western allies. He demanded that this 'pillage' should be discontinued. Col. Babcock (U.S.A.) said the allegations were 'an all-time low' and came oddly from the representative of a power which had taken more out of Berlin than any other. He asked that the word 'pillage' be deleted from the minutes.

*3 Apr.—Berlin.* Gen. Dratvin, in reply to Gen. Gailey's letter of 31 March, stated: 'I cannot help but consider as a misunderstanding and an error the statement in your letter that there was some sort of agreement concerning free and unrestricted utilization of the established corridor connecting Berlin with the western zone of occupation in Germany. There was not, and there cannot be, any agreement concerning the disorderly and uncontrolled traffic of freight and personnel through the territory of the Soviet zone of occupation in Germany. . . You are without doubt aware of the many facts which show that the lack of control has been used by shady individuals for all kinds of illegal operations, as well as by criminal and other restless elements, causing lawlessness and a condition of crime on the territory of the Soviet zone of occupation. This constitutes a threat to the general peace and order, the maintenance of which is the duty of the occupation authorities.' This was 'an internal matter', and he could not see any possibility of changing the regulations. He added: 'I am quite prepared to clarify with you certain details concerning the movement of strictly military freight and personnel of the U.S. Military Government for the purpose of removing difficulties not connected with the aforementioned problems.'

*4 Apr.—Berlin.* Gen. Gailey, in reply to Gen. Dratvin's letter of the previous day, stated that U.S. representatives who were present at the meeting in Berlin on 29 June 1945 with Marshal Zhukov clearly understood that the forces in Berlin would have free and unrestricted use of the established corridor to meet their requirements, subject only to normal regulation of movement. The U.S. authorities did not permit military trains to be used by shady individuals. 'I shall be very happy to meet with you to discuss regulations which would provide you with

requisite documentation and certification, and to determine if mutually satisfactory procedures can be effected. However, a discussion predicated on our acceptance of your entry into our military trains while in transit through your zone could lead to no results. I believe that you must admit that the action of the Soviet military administration in issuing new regulations on twenty-four hours' notice, and without advance consultation, could not be interpreted as a desire to co-operate in a friendly effort to reach a mutually satisfactory solution. Measures of this type always lead to counter-measures and therefore have a significance in our relationships which cannot be under-estimated. I repeat that I shall be glad to meet with you at such a time and place as you may suggest to determine the feasibility of developing mutually satisfactory procedures.'

*British Zone.* The British C.I.G.S., Lord Montgomery, arrived in Melle.

5 Apr.—*Berlin.* A passenger aircraft of the British European Airways Corporation, on the regular service to Berlin, was involved in a collision with a Soviet fighter aircraft as it was preparing to land at Gatow airport, and crashed in the Soviet Zone just beyond the city. The fighter also crashed, falling into the British sector. All occupants of both planes were killed. The British Military Governor, Gen. Robertson, at once ordered fighter protection for British transport, and the U.S. authorities ordered similar measures. Gen. Robertson later saw Marshal Sokolovsky, who said he regretted as much as he (Gen. Robertson) did the catastrophe which had caused the death of the victims. He assured Gen. Robertson that there was no intention to interfere with any aircraft using the corridor 'in accordance with our mutual agreement'. Gen. Robertson then cancelled the orders for fighter protection for British transport.

Gen. Brownjohn, answering a reply by Gen. Dratvin to his first letter, stated: 'The agreement reached between Marshal Zukhov, Gen. Clay, and Gen. Weeks in July, 1945, gave the British running rights over the railway between the British zone and Berlin for the purpose of maintaining the British occupation forces in the city. And while I recognize that it is the responsibility of the Soviet military administration to organize the traffic which is passing through the Soviet zone in accordance with that agreement, I cannot recognize that that agreement gave the Soviet military administration any right to interfere with the free passage of that traffic.' He suggested that the four Commanders-in-Chief discuss the matter together.

Mr Henderson, Secretary of State for Air, arrived in Berlin on a visit.

*Krupp Trial.* Alfred Krupp and eleven other Krupp directors were acquitted on the charges of conspiring with Hitler in his armed aggression. It was stated that the prosecution would continue only with the two charges of slave labour and spoliation.

6 Apr.—*Berlin.* Marshal Sokolovsky, in reply to letters from Gen. Robertson, declared: 'The attempts in your letters, and particularly in the British licensed press, to represent the air accident as the result of a deliberate attempt on the part of the Soviet pilot can only be regarded by me as a slander, which has nothing to do with the accident, and ap-

parently is designed for provocative ends. As you already know from our conversation, the catastrophe occurred because the British transport aircraft, of whose flight the Soviet authorities had not been notified, suddenly appeared from a cloud and hit the tail of the Soviet training aircraft, which already had its undercarriage down ready to land. Thus we are dealing with a breach by the British aircraft of the regulations laid down by the Control Council, which resulted in the death of a Soviet pilot and the destruction of his machine. I hope that you will give strict instructions that British machines in future will obey the flying regulations laid down by the Allied Control Council. That will release me from the necessity of taking measures to guard flight security over the Soviet zone of Germany, and particularly over Soviet airfields in the Berlin area. As far as an investigation of the causes of the catastrophe is concerned, I already have proposed to you the formation of an Anglo-Soviet commission to investigate the circumstances and causes of the accident. Soviet representatives are always ready to take part in the work of such an Anglo-Soviet commission. It is completely obvious that a quadripartite commission is not called for and would only lead to a delay in the investigation which would suit neither side.'

The British C.I.G.S., Lord Montgomery, arrived in Berlin on a routine visit.

Gen. Robertson, in a letter to Marshal Sokolovsky, proposed that they should jointly appoint a commission of enquiry into the air disaster and that they should also invite a French and U.S. representative to serve on the commission.

*7 Apr.—British Policy.* Gen. Robertson, speaking at a session of the Rhine-Westphalian Diet, said that a war of nerves was now being waged in Europe, and declared: 'For the sake of your freedom, of your future prosperity, of everything you hold dear, you must refuse absolutely to be shaken by this war of nerves.' Germany's salvation was in the people's hands to win or to cast away. If they only had courage they would win it. Let them come forward determined to make the best of that larger part of their country that lay on the right side of the iron curtain, and the rest would come in time. 'We offer you our good will and our co-operation. Do not be frightened by the mischief-makers who scream "Collaborator!" The time has come to realize that the interests of all Europeans are converging. Our needs and yours cannot be dealt with separately, for we all form part of Europe.' Nor could Germans afford to squabble among themselves. These divisions were their weakness. They must refuse to be divided by minor issues, for it was far more important to know whether German men and women were to be allowed the freedom God intended them to enjoy. It might be very important to be a good party man, but far more important to be a good German. If they failed they would wake up one day to find their party no longer existed, for 'there is only one party in hell and it is the devil's own. Make up your minds to stand together against these gentlemen who, with democracy on their lips and truncheons behind their backs, would filch your German freedom from you. Then you need have no fear. The prospects are good. Go forward and seize them.'

He said the ultimate objective of the bizonal administration in Frankfurt was to lay a foundation on which German unity could be restored. By unity he meant a real unity with an independent, freely elected, and representative Government. For the time being they must accept as a fact that an iron curtain split Germany. For the time being they must be content with unity so far as it could be achieved and should not forget that this meant the unity of two-thirds of Germany. The complete unity of Germany would be possible only when the real will of all the people could be freely expressed. That day would come, but it was not yet. The primary objective of British policy was that there should be peace and prosperity in a united Europe, in which the new Germany must play its full part. The one great factor in their hopes was the Marshall plan, which promised two things of immense importance to Germany. First, it offered the prospect of increased supplies of raw materials for her industries; secondly, it brought the people of western Germany back into the family of those nations with the economies of which she was by nature so closely related. It was a great misfortune that the German people in all four zones were not permitted to take part in the programme, for nothing could have been more helpful than this to bring about full economic unity. He could not disclose any details of the proposals discussed at the London Conference for the control of the Ruhr, but wished to assure them that the international control the western Governments had in mind was intended to be constructive and not punitive. The Ruhr was of great industrial importance not only for Germany but for the whole of western Europe, the entire industry of which tended to become integrated by the general direction of events.

8 Apr.—*Berlin.* The *Kommandatura* reached general agreement on the Soviet suggestions for reducing the number of committees responsible for the administration of the city. Brig. Benson (Britain) then replied to the Soviet charges made on 2 April. He said that if, as had been alleged, productive resources were being moved to the west unemployment or a reduction in the numbers employed could be expected. In fact the opposite was the case. The economic and industrial life of the British sector had expanded to such an extent that there were now more jobs than workers. He described as 'ridiculous' the assertion that firms had been assisted to leave Berlin to escape socialization. Those large firms which had made the most remarkable recovery in the British sector were those most liable to socialization. In the Soviet sector, on the other hand, there was no question of socializing the larger firms since they had been taken over entirely by the Soviet authorities. He said the events of May and June 1945 could not be overlooked in view of the Soviet allegations, and referred to the 'ruthless stripping of the British sector by the Soviet authorities'; for instance, from five large firms the Soviet authorities took 90 per cent of the machines totalling 23,647 and left only old or damaged machines. The total value of the machines taken was RM 54,200,000. Referring to the strangulation of trade and commerce between Berlin and the rest of Germany which recent Soviet regulations were bringing about, he said these were introduced with inadequate warning, there had been no consultation

with the other allies, there had been incorrect and misleading press notices, and the Soviet authorities had failed to make the necessary administrative arrangements. Another example of inefficiency or deliberate obstruction by the Soviet authorities concerned mail. Col. Yelizarov, in reply, alleged that the British ruling classes and monopolists had given Hitler the arms to wage war, and 'afterwards had looked on as this machine had been flung against the Soviet Union'. Brig. Benson replied that he was second to none in his recognition of the gallantry of the Red Army, but he rejected 'with the contempt they deserved' Col. Yelizarov's accusations against the British.

Col. Babcock (U.S.A.) asked for a list of the German property alleged to have been removed from the U.S. sector of Berlin. Col. Yelizarov said that he was not sure whether, in view of the course the discussion had taken, he would give any such statement.

The Soviet Air Security Service alleged that British and U.S. aircraft were infringing almost daily the quadripartite air security regulations.

**GOLD COAST.** 19 Mar.—Many workers went on strike in Kumasi, and there were some disturbances when groups erected road blocks.

29 Mar.—There was further looting in Accra, and the curfew was re-imposed.

**GREAT BRITAIN.** 20 Mar.—*Trieste.* Three-Power proposal (see *Italy*).

22 Mar.—*Iraq.* The Government announced that the advisory military mission in Iraq would be withdrawn as from 16 May, when the contract of the existing head of the mission expired. They said they would do everything in their power to help in maintaining the efficiency of the Iraqi forces.

*Trieste.* Note to the three Powers (see *Yugoslavia*).

23 Mar.—*West Indies.* Major-General Sir Hubert Rance, former Governor of Burma, was asked by the Colonial Office to serve as Chairman of the Standing Closer Association Committee recommended by the Montego Bay Conference (see *III*, p. 558).

*Palestine.* The Palestine Bill was given its third reading in the Commons. Mr Creech-Jones stated that the new U.S. proposal to the Security Council changed the outlook for the future government of Palestine. The British Government would proceed with the winding up of the civil administration so that their authority under the Mandate came to an end by 15 May and also with the withdrawal of troops by 1 August. Mr Bevin said the Government could not change their policy because some other State made a proposition. 'If other people have created a muddle why should the Government be blamed? We are blamed because we do not do the right thing in Palestine when we are responsible; we are blamed when we are trying to get out; we are blamed for what is happening when we are going out. So I say the quicker we are out the better.'

*Transjordan.* Protest against Treaty (see *Iraq*).

*Shipping Agreement.* An agreement was signed with the Netherlands

by which Britain was to pay about £5 million in settlement of most of the outstanding claims arising from the use of Dutch vessels under charter during the war.

**Trade Agreement.** A minute agreed between the Colonial Office and the Netherlands delegation on transfers and trade between Singapore, the Federation of Malaya, and the Netherlands Indies came into force. It said that the Governments recognized the importance of confining trade through normal legal channels, particularly to prevent transfers which did not serve direct or useful economic or commercial purposes.

**24 Mar.—Incomes and Prices.** A Conference of Trade Union executives declared by a majority their support for the recommendations on the Government's wage stabilization plan. In a card vote on the General Council report (see p. 121) voting was 5,421,000 for and 2,032,000 against.

**Trieste.** Mr Bevin made a statement in the House of Commons confirming the three-Power declaration.

Canadian food contracts (see *Canada*).

**Palestine.** The Zionist Federation issued a statement condemning the 'sudden betrayal by the U.S.A.' of the plan to partition Palestine. The Jews of Great Britain would back the efforts of Jews in Palestine 'to secure Jewish sovereignty at least in part of Palestine. American Jewry now begin a struggle against their own Government such as we have fought for many years'.

British constables sentenced (see *Palestine*).

**25 Mar.—Germany.** The Government, replying to the Soviet Note of 6 March, said they entirely repudiated Soviet accusations that the western Powers were violating the Potsdam agreement and disrupting the four-Power Control Council machinery in Germany. In their opinion 'responsibility for the frustration of their consistent attempts to promote to the greatest possible extent practical co-operation in Germany, directed to the economic recovery and unity of that country on a basis of agreement between the four Powers in accordance with the responsibilities laid upon them as occupying Powers, rests clearly on the Soviet refusal to allow those conditions to exist in Germany which are essential for the well-being of Europe'.

**28 Mar.—Jerusalem.** The Archbishop of York, Dr Garbett, in his Easter sermon in York Minster, said: 'There will be the greatest danger that the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and other places almost equally sacred may be destroyed as Jews and Arabs fight for possession of the city. Once again its streets will run with blood and its dwellings be reduced to ruins.' As there seemed little likelihood of both Arabs and Jews agreeing to treat Jerusalem and its immediate surroundings as sacred ground, the United Nations should immediately appoint a Governor of Jerusalem with an international security force strong enough to preserve peace and order. 'Most earnestly I appeal to the United Nations to take at once the steps necessary to save Jerusalem from destruction, and especially I would appeal to Christians in the United States to urge this course upon their Government. If indeed Jerusalem with its sacred places is buried in general ruin, then too late

a cry of horror and shame will arise from Christendom and the United Nations will have suffered a blow to its influence and prestige from which probably it will never recover.'

31 Mar.—*Budget*. The Treasury announced that ordinary revenue for the year amounted to £3,844,859,041 and ordinary expenditure to £3,187,104,303, giving an 'ordinary' surplus of £657,754,738.

1 Apr.—*Canadian Credit*. The Treasury announced that the present arrangements for financing imports from Canada had been extended for a fortnight.

*Polish Resettlement Corps*. Note (see *Poland*).

*Defence*. Naval manoeuvres (see *British W. Indies*).

2 Apr.—*Coal*. A delegate conference of the National Union of Mineworkers accepted the executive's recommendation that the overtime agreement in the mines should be continued for a year from 30 April.

5 Apr.—*European Recovery Programme*. Mr Attlee, in a message to President Truman, said that on the passing of the Economic Co-operation Act he wished to express the British people's 'deep gratification at this act of unparalleled generosity and statesmanship. The act will be welcomed not only in Britain but all over the world wherever free peoples can express their opinions. It is an encouragement to all to press on to the solution of Europe's difficulties and towards the establishment of a stable, free, and healthy world economy... [We] are at one with the people of the U.S.A. in this endeavour, and we shall apply our whole energies to its accomplishment.'

Mr Bevin and M. Bidault, in a similar joint message to Mr Marshall, said they would like to express to the people of the U.S.A. 'our warm appreciation and thanks for the signal demonstration of statesmanship and of confidence in Europe shown by the passage of this Act [which] has heartened the free peoples of the world. We can assure you that the European nations on their part will not be behindhand and will press on with the work of co-operation that they have already started. Fortified by the support and the encouragement of the United States, we shall make the European recovery programme a success'.

6 Apr.—*Budget*. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Cripps, introducing his Budget to the House of Commons, described it as a Budget to counter inflation and encourage production. He said the country's reserves would be exhausted in 1949 if the present drain continued. It must be ended. U.S. aid would help to strengthen physical resources and must not be used for luxuries. The main points of the Budget were: reliefs in income tax; a special 'once-and-for-all' levy on incomes from investments; increases in the duty on wines, spirits and beer; increases in the betting tax; reduction in tax on certain 'live' entertainments; and re-adjustments in the purchase tax. A surplus of £789 million was estimated, of which about £319 million could be reckoned as effective against inflation.

7 Apr.—*Trieste*. The Government, in a Note to Yugoslavia regarding the incident in the Free Territory on 29 March (see p. 235) pointed out that this was not the first occasion that Yugoslav occupational forces and Yugoslav Military Government police have fired on members of

the British forces and of the police of the British-U.S. zone. They said they 'must protest in forceful terms against these instances of deliberate and aggressive assault against military posts and police patrols maintained by the administration of the British-U.S. zone in this area', and trusted that the Yugoslav Government would issue the necessary instruction so that there might be no repetition of these incidents.

8 Apr.—Economic Talks (*see France*).

**GREECE.** 24 Mar.—Gen. van Fleet, the head of the U.S. Military Mission, praised the National Army for its victory over Communist forces in Pieria and Olympus. 'In this operation, which began a few weeks ago, the National Army supported by the Royal Hellenic Air Force, has killed or captured 1,155 rebels. It is a splendid victory.'

28 Mar.—*Child Conscription.* The Government made a protest to the United Nations against the abduction of children by Communists.

31 Mar.—Two Army brigades moved in to surround some 600 rebels on the Kroussia Mountains.

1 Apr.—*Child Conscription.* Agency report (*see Yugoslavia*).

2 Apr.—*Turkey.* Mr Nejmeddin Sadak, the Turkish Foreign Minister, arrived in Athens to discuss matters of common interest with the Government.

5 Apr.—*Turkey.* The Prime Minister and the Turkish Foreign Minister, in a joint statement, reaffirmed Greco-Turkish friendship as established by pacts now in force. They emphasized that the foreign policy followed by their Governments was inspired by United Nations principles for safeguarding the integrity of national territories. The statement also promised more effective economic co-operation between the two countries.

7 Apr.—There was heavy fighting at Komotini, Thrace, and the rebels were finally driven back.

A statement issued by the Army estimated that the rebel forces had increased by 18,000 in the past year, and that losses were about 20,284 killed, captured or surrendered.

The King left Athens for a tour of central Peloponnesus.

**HUNGARY.** 26 Mar.—*Nationalization.* The Cabinet voted a Bill for the nationalization of all industrial plants employing more than one hundred workers.

**INDIA.** 21 Mar.—*States.* Mr V. P. Menon, Secretary for the States, told the press in Bombay that the rulers of nineteen States in Gujarat, comprising an area of 27,000 square miles and a population of 2,500,000, had agreed from 5 June to integrate their administrations with that of Bombay province on the same terms as certain Deccan States had done. A statement by the rulers said that, as a sacrifice for the wider interests of India as a whole, they had taken the first step in forming the province of Mahagujarat. He announced that a very satisfactory settlement had been reached with Baroda State. He said the Vindhya Pradesh Union, comprising Bundikhand and Bagalkhand States, would become effective

from 1 May, with the ruler of Rewa State as Rajpramukh of the Rajasthan Union. In the case of Gwalior, Indore, and Malwa States, he was confident that a constitutional structure in harmony with the traditions of the States and the needs of the people would evolve. Bhopal had decided to stand out of the Malwa Union.

23 Mar.—*Socialist Party Conference.* It was decided to set up a new all-India labour organization, called the India Labour Congress, to promote the economic, social, and political interests of the Indian working class.

27 Mar.—*States.* Mr Menon, Secretary for the States, announced that, with the recent formation of the United States of Rajasthan, the number of Indian States and estates which had been merged into provinces or grouped into unions of States was now 869, with combined population of more than twenty million. Of this total 144 were jurisdictional States. On 2 April another thirty-five would be integrated into the United State of Vindhya Pradesh. He said that at the end of April the once patchwork quilt of great States and petty estates of varying degrees of political development would be integrated into about twenty-five units of provincial dimensions and woven into the political fabric of the Dominion. Each would have full democratic government with direct relations with the central Government. He added that there was no intention to 'exterminate' the princes; in fact, if one of them died childless the title would not be allowed to lapse. A relative or citizen of the State or Dominion distinguished by public service would be 'raised to the peerage'.

*Nationalization.* Mr Nehru, speaking to the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said that the only way to meet the crisis brought about by declining production and unsettled refugees was to introduce conscription for nation-building and social work. When there was war, the whole national life was geared to meet it, and everything else was subordinated to it. What was required in India now was conscription of that type. He said that all key industries must be nationalized but that there would be plenty of scope for private enterprise; some industries would be run jointly by the Government and industrial concerns, and others would be wholly free from Government control. India would have to continue its constructional work on its own resources because the delivery of capital goods from oversea was uncertain, and therefore the development of cottage industries was essential.

29 Mar.—Mr Nehru told Parliament that former members of the Indian National Army would not be allowed to re-join the Indian Army but might join the Home Guard, State forces, the armed constabulary, the police, and civil service.

30 Mar.—It was announced that seventeen members of the Communist Party had been arrested in Delhi because their activities among transport and public utility workers constituted a threat to public peace. In Parliament the Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, said that the threatened strike of Government employees in Calcutta would be gross dereliction of duty and entail instant dismissal.

*Communism.* Pandit Nehru, in a broadcast, said that actions 'cal-

culated to challenge the foundations of democratic government' would not be tolerated.

1 Apr.—*Strike.* Central Government employees in Calcutta decided to strike the following day as a protest against the Government's retrenchment policy.

2 Apr.—*Communism.* Over 100 Communist party leaders were arrested in different parts of the Dominion in synchronized operations.

6 Apr.—*Economic Policy.* Announcing the Government's policy on industrial development, the Minister for Industry and Supply, Dr Shyama Prosad Mookerjee, told Parliament that the primary objective was to increase the production of capital goods. Industries would be divided into three categories. The first, which would be an exclusive monopoly of the central Government, included the manufacture of arms and ammunition, atomic energy, and the railways. The second, in which existing private undertakings would be allowed to develop for the next ten years under some State control, and in which all new undertakings would be exclusively promoted by the State, included coal, iron and steel, aircraft manufacture, shipbuilding, and mineral oils. All other industries would be left to private enterprise.

INDONESIA. 23 Mar.—Trade Agreement (*see Great Britain*).

INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE. 30 Mar.—The Conference was opened at Bogotá by the President of Columbia, Sr Perez, who urged it to work out a programme of technical and financial co-operation. 'Such a programme should channel towards the less developed areas the capital and scientific knowledge our countries require for their prosperous development. The execution of this plan will also enable us to absorb the excess population of other hemispheres under suitable conditions and to take advantage of these human resources to our common benefit.'

At the proposal of Mr Marshall (U.S.A.) the Conference agreed unanimously to discuss foreign-inspired subversive activities. Statements on the attitude of delegations to European possession of Colonies in the Americas showed that Argentina, Guatemala, Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Chile, Paraguay, and Peru were against, while the U.S.A., Brazil, Colombia, Uruguay, Cuba, and Nicaragua were in favour.

1 Apr.—*European Recovery Programme.* Mr Marshall, speaking on E.R.P., said the basic trouble had been the collapse of European economy. The disastrous impact of the war on Europe had been felt everywhere in the world. The western hemisphere, for example, had formerly enjoyed substantial business with Europe, and the virtual breakdown of that commerce had adversely and directly affected the American republics. The recovery of Europe was therefore a prerequisite to the resumption of trade relationships. 'The difficulties you have experienced in obtaining certain materials from the U.S.A. to meet the needs of your industrial and agricultural development are understood. The problem of shortages is not yours alone. The pressure on our pro-

duction comes from every direction.' The E.R.P. provided the economic means of achieving a purpose essentially moral in nature. If human rights and liberties were blotted out in Europe, they would become increasingly insecure in the new world as well. The U.S.A. could not continue to bear alone the burdens on its own economy now necessary to initiate the restoration of prosperity. 'We have to look to other nations whose interests correspond with ours, for active co-operation. This is a matter of as much concern to your countries as it is to mine. All that are able should contribute. All will share the benefits. We have encountered, as you are aware, the determined and open opposition of one group of states. If the genuine co-operation of the U.S.S.R. could be secured the world's recovery, and peace, would be assured. Until such co-operation is assured, we must proceed with our own efforts.'

2 Apr.—*Colonies.* It was decided to appoint a sub-committee of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Columbia, Chile, U.S.A., Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Mexico to consider the question of European colonies.

5 Apr.—Mr McCloy, president of the International Bank said the Bank's policy towards Latin-America was to blaze the trail for private international investment there. Emphasizing the importance to the world of an economically developed Latin-America, he said that the effort could be made now that western Europe was coming under the Marshall Plan. 'If there is any disposition left anywhere to reduce this Continent to a condition of so-called colonial servitude,' he added, 'I have not located it.'

6 Apr.—*Colonies.* Sr Belancourt (Venezuela) urged the conference to take measures to free all European colonies in the Americas, including Jamaica, the Guianas, and Puerto Rico. He proposed plebiscites among those peoples to determine whether they wanted full independence or to live under the flag of one of the American Republics. He said that Venezuela reserved the right to claim the Guianas and the Caribbean islands which formerly were part of her territory under Spain. These included Trinidad and Puria Island off the southern coast. Venezuela also asserted claims to Aruba, Curaçao, and Bonaire. He said that the 'position of Venezuela is trenchant and categorical regarding this matter. We consider incompatible with the inter-American juridical system any historic, economic, or strategic argument which might be invoked as justification for colonialism.'

7 Apr.—*Colonies.* Sr Corominas (Argentina) supported the Venezuelan proposals. He accused Britain of an invasion of the Falklands Antarctica, supporting the charge with 'documentary proof'. Dr Granados (Guatemala) reasserted his country's claim to British Honduras, and Sr Bernstein (Chile) put forth claims to Antarctica.

8 Apr.—*Colonies.* Sr Meany (Guatemala) declared: 'The map of Guatemala contains the bloody stain of a territorial mutilation—a fifth part of its territory snatched away by one of the most powerful empires of the world. During World War II Guatemala nobly suspended its claims to Belize. The continent does not ignore the devastation done to Guatemala, nor the armed provocation of which it has become a victim.'

nor does it ignore the war-like forces and elements which an extra-continental force has landed on the shore of the new world.' Disclaiming feelings of resentment against any colonial Power, he declared that colonization in America ought to be terminated 'like all anachronisms', and added: 'We do not wish for lands belonging to somebody else; it is enough for us to recover our own. We maintain our will for collaboration with all nations, but we believe that, cardinally, America ought to be united and free of all nations to fulfil its destiny.'

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF JOURNALISTS.** 30 Mar.—In a letter to the President, Mr A. Kenyon (Britain), Mr Harry Martin, President of the American Newspaper Guild, demanded the removal from office of the Secretary-General, Mr Jiri Hronek (Czechoslovakia), on the ground that he had taken part in the purge of Czech journalists. Mr Kenyon said he hoped to call a meeting of the organization's executive committee in May, probably in Brussels.

1 Apr.—The Australian Journalists' Association decided to withdraw from the Organization since they considered it Communist-dominated and too expensive.

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST CONFERENCE.** 20 Mar.—The committee of International Socialist Conferences, which had been meeting in London, passed a resolution declaring that the Social Democratic parties of Rumania, Bulgaria, and Hungary, having been absorbed into the Communist movement by an arbitrary decision of their leaders, had excluded themselves from the committee.

*Czechoslovakia.* 'In Czechoslovakia the Social Democrats have been betrayed to the Communists by a few of their leaders, supported by the Communist-controlled police. This committee cannot accept the present leadership of the Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party as representative of Socialism. It denounces to the world the oppressive, reactionary, and humiliating nature of this caricature of democracy which hypocritically describes itself as a "people's democracy".'

*Italy.* The Polish and Italian Socialist parties were asked to remain faithful to Socialism and democracy, to regain their freedom of action while there is still time. The representatives of the Nenni Italian Socialists left the meeting in protest.

*Exiles.* It was decided not to accept exiled Socialists into membership except for the Spanish Socialist Party, at any rate for the present.

The Polish and Czech parties were not represented at the meeting because of delay in issuing British *visas*.

**IRAQ.** 22 Mar.—Withdrawal of military mission (*see Great Britain*).

23 Mar.—*Anglo-Transjordan Treaty.* Students demonstrated in the main streets of Baghdad against the Treaty, shouting anti-British slogans and demanding the punishment of General Nuri Pasha who was held to have influenced it.

27 Mar.—The Foreign Minister, Dr Hamdi Pachachi, died.

30 Mar.—Sd. Nasrat al-Farisi, Minister of the Interior, was appointed Foreign Minister.

ITALY. 10 Mar.—*European Recovery Programme. Marshall Speech (see U.S.A.).*

20 Mar.—*Trieste.* M. Bidault, who was on a visit to Italy, announced in a speech in Turin that the French, British, and U.S. Governments were proposing to the Governments of the U.S.S.R. and Italy that they join in agreement on an additional protocol to the treaty of peace with Italy which would place the Free Territory of Trieste once more under Italian sovereignty. A statement issued later by the three Governments said they had come to this decision because discussions in the Security Council had already shown that agreement on the selection of a governor was impossible and because they had received abundant evidence to show that the Yugoslav zone had been transformed in character and had been virtually incorporated in Yugoslavia by procedures which did not respect the desire expressed by the Powers to give an independent and democratic status to the territory. During the Council of Foreign Ministers' discussion of the Italian peace treaty it was the consistent position of the U.S., British, and French representatives that Trieste, which had an overwhelmingly Italian population, must remain an Italian city. Given the impossibility of securing the adoption of such a solution, the three Governments agreed that the city and a small hinterland should be established as a free territory under a statute which it was hoped would guarantee, with the co-operation of all parties concerned, the independence of the people of the area, including the Italian city of Trieste. Pending the assumption of office by a governor, the Free Territory had been administered by the commander British-U.S. forces in the northern zone of the territory and by the commander Yugoslav forces in the southern zone. In the Anglo-American zone the military authorities had acted as caretakers for the governor to be appointed and for the democratic organs of popular representation for which the permanent statute of the territory makes provision. At the same time Yugoslavia had taken, in the zone under her charge, measures which definitely compromised the possibility of applying the statute. They had therefore decided to recommend the return of the Free Territory of Trieste to Italian sovereignty as the best solution to meet the democratic aspirations of the people and make possible the re-establishment of peace and stability in the area. It was proposed that such arrangements as might be agreed to by the Power concerned should be submitted to the Security Council for its approval in view of the special responsibilities assumed by the Council in connection with the Free Territory of Trieste.

Soviet comment (*see U.S.S.R.*).

Sr de Gasperi, in a broadcast, reaffirmed the Italian view that the recognition of the need for Trieste to be returned to Italy was 'an act of justice on the part of the British, French, and U.S. Governments'. It was in the interests of Italy and the world that Italy and Yugoslavia should live peacefully together, but lands which by tradition and by

reason of their Italian majority were Italian should be returned to Italian sovereignty.

*Customs Union and Trade Agreements.* M. Bidault and Count Sforza signed the protocol relating to the projected Franco-Italian Customs union, and also agreements which would increase the total value of trade between the two countries to 15,000 million francs in each direction, three times the present figure.

*Western Union.* Sr de Gasperi and M. Bidault held a press conference near Turin. Sr de Gasperi said M. Bidault's announcement of the Three-Power proposal for Trieste had created joy in Italian hearts and had raised hopes of collaboration between the two countries in still wider spheres. The Italo-French *rapprochement* was a first step towards a *rapprochement* of all European States. M. Bidault said that the economic unity between France and Italy must be extended to other spheres.

22 Mar.—*Trieste.* Note to the three Powers (see *Yugoslavia*).

23 Mar.—*Trieste.* Count Sforza, the Foreign Minister, declared: 'Nothing has given me more satisfaction than that on the very day when we confirm the Franco-Italian Customs Union, the western Powers declare that it would be an intolerable injustice if Trieste did not return to Italy'.

26 Mar.—*Trieste.* The Government announced that they were ready to open direct negotiations with Yugoslavia on the matter of Trieste 'within the spirit and letter of the western Powers' proposal'.

An agreement was reached with Yugoslavia whereby Italians deported from Venezia Giulia during the Yugoslav occupation of June 1945, and Slavs at present serving prison sentences in Italy, were released under a special amnesty.

31 Mar.—*Trieste.* Count Sforza, in an interview to the British press, said that to appraise the real nature of the Trieste question it was enough to recall the intentions with which the Free Territory was conceived at the time of the peace conference. 'At best it was to have been a meeting place and a clearing house between east and west, as well as an outlet for central Europe; at worst, a compromise between two conflicting views. Neither of these conditions has materialized. The two zones, which were to be merged into the Free State, are now more sharply divided than ever with the dangerous results outlined in Gen. Airey's report to the Security Council and by the three Powers' declaration. Because I never separate the interests of Italy from the cause of peace, my duty is to state that what is still going on in Trieste means growing friction and tension not only in that area itself but far beyond it. It is in the interests of both Italy and Yugoslavia to work for a speedy solution of this problem. But the basis for this solution can only be the three-Power declaration, which favours the return to Italian administration of Trieste and its territory.' Asked whether he could comment on Marshal Tito's declaration that any solution could only be the outcome of direct talks between Italy and Yugoslavia, he said that Italy would always be ready to treat with Yugoslavia on the basis and along the lines of the three-Power proposal. He considered that in any case the U.S.S.R. must be consulted first.

3 Apr.—*Arms*. An Italian motor schooner which put into Molfetta, near Bari, was found by the port authorities to be carrying arms and munitions instead of the commercial cargo listed on its bills of lading. The ship, the real destination of which was unknown, though it was apparently bound for Syria and had embarked its cargo at Fiume, was taken to Bari and its crew were arrested.

Application for membership of United Nations (see *Security Council*).

4 Apr.—*Third Force*. A conference for the formation of a Third Force opened in Milan on the initiative of the former Prime Minister, Sr Parri (Republican). The Independent Socialists and the left-wing Liberals, represented by the former Ambassador in London, Count Carandini, also took part.

6 Apr.—*Sicily*. The executive committee of the General Confederation of Labour, after examining the uneasy situation created in the island by the series of political murders, decided to call a one-hour general strike throughout Italy on 12 April as a protest against the murders, and as a warning to those responsible for them.

8 Apr.—A large clandestine arms store was discovered near Milan.

*A.N.P.I.* Following a conference convened by Sr Parri, a group of non-Communist members of the National Association of Italian Partisans stated that, in view of the pro-Communist attitude of the Association and of the doubtful position of the right wing organization (a group which had earlier seceded under the leadership of Gen. Cadorna), they were 'firmly decided to fight openly and resolutely any attempt to create a totalitarian régime, either from the Right or Left'.

**JAPAN.** 22 Mar.—*Economic Mission*. Mr William Draper, the U.S. Under-Secretary for the Army, arrived in Tokyo with a party of economic experts to study 'plans for the rehabilitation of Japanese economy'.

*Government Policy*. Dr Ashida, the Prime Minister, in a statement to the Diet, said Japan was 'particularly perturbed over the political instability' of neighbouring nations in the Far East. It was in no position to have a voice in the organization of peace, but since the country's 'very existence and independence' were closely bound up with present world conditions, it was impossible for the people to remain indifferent to international developments that threatened peace.

*New Party*. The new Conservative party, headed by Shigeru Yoshida, came into existence under the designation of the Liberal-Democratic Party. It possessed approximately 160 seats in the House of Representatives.

26 Mar.—*U.S. Economic Mission*. Mr Draper told the press that the aim of the mission was to investigate ways of making Japanese economy self-sufficient, if possible by 1952-53. The plan to make Japan the 'workshop of the East' still stood. Since his last visit in September 1947 developments had been encouraging—coal production had increased to nearly three million tons a month; rice deliveries had reached the full quota; and tax collection had greatly improved. Unfavourable developments were the steady rise in prices and the increase in the note issue. It was impossible for the U.S.A. to continue food, fertilizer, seed, and

petroleum supplies indefinitely. The U.S. Department of the Army had therefore developed a recovery programme, similar to the European one but on a smaller scale, which envisaged the provision for Japan during the first year of \$180 million in industrial raw materials, together with some \$400 million for the prevention of 'disease and unrest', i.e. food supplies, etc. The plan was being studied by a U.S. congressional committee. Speaking of the 1930-34 level of Japanese industry which had been fixed as the future level, he said that that simply referred to the plan's capacity. If by their efforts the Japanese people could go beyond that in the future, the U.S.A. had no intention of interfering, unless they showed signs of disturbing the peace and rebuilding war industries. The U.S.A. was not planning to make Japan a 'buffer state against the U.S.S.R.', and the primary aim in building up Japan was 'to save the U.S. taxpayer from further burdens'.

29 Mar.—*Strike.* The Supreme Command Headquarters, in a statement, declared that strikes such as the 'co-ordinated work stoppage' planned for 31 March by the Union of Communication Workers, who were demanding higher wages, could not be tolerated.

30 Mar.—*Strike.* The Union of Communication Workers called out on strike some 200,000 workers in Western Japan.

31 Mar.—*Strike.* The Union of Communication Workers called out on strike, for forty-eight hours, workers in eight other provinces of Japan.

1 Apr.—*U.S. Economic Mission.* Mr Draper, in a press talk before returning to the U.S.A., said his mission considered it advisable to restore Japan's industry and, in particular, to 'rebuild her merchant marine'. Controls must be removed and free enterprise restored. The question of reparations should be settled without delay. Japan had been thoroughly demilitarized and could not prepare for a fresh war 'for fifty years'.

**MADAGASCAR.** 1 Apr.—The new Governor-General, M. de Chevigne, in a statement following a visit to the military post in the disturbed area of the island, said that a new phase of military operations would begin with the opening of the dry season. He declared: 'This time I think we will definitely break the rebellion and what will remain to be done thereafter will be police operations, not military ones.' Of the future of Madagascar, he said: 'I assure the French population that the work of France will not be liquidated. I assure the Malagasy population, which wishes to preserve its soul and its own character, that there is no reason to despair. France understands that the Malagasy people wishes to pursue a straight and simple road at her side which can lead it to its legitimate aim—namely, that of a State freely associated with all the other States forming the great community of the French Union.'

**MALAYA.** 23 Mar.—Trade Agreement (*see Great Britain*).

1 Apr.—The Legislative Council of the Colony, comprising 13 unofficial and 9 official members, held its inaugural meeting under the presidency of the Governor, Sir Franklin Gimson. Of the nine elected

unofficial members, three were Indian, one European, one Chinese, and one Malay.

NETHERLANDS. 19 Mar.—The Upper House decided by 57 votes to 7 (Communists) to exclude Communists from the Foreign Affairs House Committee.

23 Mar.—Shipping Agreement (*see Great Britain*).

South-East Asia Trade Agreement (*see Great Britain*).

24 Mar.—*Defence*. The Government announced that the Army would be strengthened by a 'National Reserve' of volunteers to be called to arms if military assistance was needed for the maintenance of law and order. The military police guarding the frontier would be reinforced.

PAKISTAN. 27 Mar.—Accession of Kalat (*see Baluchistan*).

PALESTINE. 19 Mar.—Jews ambushed an Arab convoy outside Haifa and killed 9 Arabs. In the Beisan district Arabs opened fire on Jews working in a quarry and killed 5 Jews.

U.S. proposal of trusteeship (*see Security Council*).

21 Mar.—A truck parked, it was stated, by an Arab outside Jewish offices in Haifa exploded and demolished 8 buildings and 21 vehicles, killing 6 Jews.

22 Mar.—A lorry exploded in the Arab quarter of Haifa, killing 5 Arabs, injuring 31, and damaging buildings. Hagana later claimed responsibility.

A large Arab band attacked the Jewish colony of Hartur.

There was further street fighting in Jerusalem.

23 Mar.—*Jewish State*. After meeting in Tel-Aviv the Jewish Agency Executive and Vaad Leumi announced in a joint statement: '(1) The Jewish People and Yishuv will oppose any proposal designed to prevent or postpone the establishment of a Jewish State. (2) We categorically reject any plan to set up a trusteeship régime for Palestine, even for a short time. Trusteeship would necessarily entail denial of Jewish rights to national independence. It would leave Palestine under a foreign military régime. (3) Failure and disintegration of mandatory administration, continuation of which was unanimously rejected by the United Nations, necessitates early arrival in Palestine of the United Nations Commission. A Jewish Provisional Council of Government should be recognized without delay by the Commission, so that authority may be transferred to it as envisaged in United Nations decisions. (4) Upon termination of the mandatory administration, and not later than 16 May, a Provisional Jewish Government will commence to function in co-operation with the representatives of the United Nations then in Palestine. In the meantime, we shall do our utmost to minimize the chaos created by the present Government, and we shall maintain, so far as lies in our power, public services neglected by it. (5) The Jewish people extend the hand of peace to the Arab people. The Jewish State will be glad to co-operate with neighbouring Arab States, and to enter

into permanent treaty relations with them, to strengthen world peace and advance development of all countries of the Near East.'

Jews claimed to have killed twenty-three Arabs in attacks on Arab traffic.

A number of houses were demolished by the explosion of a lorry driven by an Arab into a Jewish quarter of Jerusalem.

24 Mar.—Some twenty-six Jews were killed and many others injured when two Jewish convoys were ambushed by Arabs on the Jerusalem-Ramle road and the Jerusalem-Nablas road. The British Army intervened to rescue the remaining Jews. A number of Jewish vehicles were destroyed or damaged.

Zionist statement (*see Great Britain*).

Three British constables who had been captured in Arab costume in a stolen police armoured car after an Arab raid on a Jewish settlement, were sentenced by a military court on board the *Ocean Vigour* at Haifa each to ten years' imprisonment on charges of carrying unauthorized fire arms and ammunition, but were found not guilty of firing on the settlement of Nebuyaastov. An Arab constable was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment on the same charge.

28 Mar.—About half a Jewish convoy of forty to fifty vehicles which had penetrated from Jerusalem to Kfar Etzion and three other Jewish settlements between Jerusalem and Hebron was intercepted by Arabs on the return journey, and besieged in a small house. Three small Jewish aircraft attempted to bomb the Arabs. British troops in armoured cars intervened and arranged a truce with the Arabs by which the Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem after surrendering their arms and equipment. Sixteen Jews were killed and forty-five wounded.

A Jewish convoy of five lorries and an armoured car was intercepted by Arabs at Al-Kabri between Acre and the northern frontier. Military and police later found the five lorries abandoned and forty-two Jewish bodies. Six Arabs were reported to have been killed.

A ship carrying about 800 Jewish illegal immigrants was intercepted off Palestine and brought into Haifa.

Statement by General Smuts (*see South Africa*).

*Jerusalem*. The Jewish community introduced bread rationing. Archbishop's appeal (*see Great Britain*).

*International Red Cross*. The Palestine delegate, M. Reynier, said that verbal agreement had been received from the Jewish Agency, the Arab Higher Committee, the Arab League, and the Mufti to respect the articles of the Geneva Red Cross Convention.

'George Washington Legion' (*see U.S.A.*).

Mufti's statement. U.S. proposals (*see Security Council*).

31 Mar.—The Cairo-Haifa train was mined, and part of it derailed, near Benyamina. Forty persons, mostly Arabs, were killed and sixty injured. The Stern Gang claimed responsibility.

1 Apr.—Arabs attacked a convoy at Hulda, between Tel Aviv and Latrun, seized five vehicles, and burned or wrecked the rest. Hagana later stated that seventeen Jews had been killed. Five Arabs were killed.

2 Apr.—*Jerusalem. British Community Council.* The British Commercial Agent, Mr S. R. Jordan, Chairman, told the Council of security measures for the protection of British residents remaining after 15 May, but said the Government had suggested that those who had no cogent reason for remaining in Palestine should leave.

3 Apr.—The High Commissioner, Sir Alan Cunningham, in a broadcast, asked 'in the strongest possible terms' that the disputants should cease fire immediately. He asked for 'cease-fire' rather than a truce, as it would seem to be more lasting. He felt it his duty as head of the Government to convey personally the resolution of the Security Council (which was read out before he spoke) to the people of Palestine. Those who might wish to continue violence in face of the United Nations' demand should think of the damage this might do to their case in the new deliberations soon to take place. The opinion of the world had been expressed through an organization on which the hopes of those everywhere desiring peace were centred. It was the duty of every one to sustain the influence of this international body. He declared: 'This Government is only to remain with you a short time longer. During that period, however, I am anxious and willing to do all in my power to negotiate and maintain the "cease-fire" agreement for which I am asking. We are ready now to discuss with both the civil and military leaders of the contending parties the details required for the conclusion and enforcement of such an agreement.'

5 Apr.—Jews, understood to be members of Stern Gang, destroyed the Arab village of Biradas, fifteen miles north-east of Tel Aviv, claiming that the inhabitants were a threat to Jewish settlements.

Arabs attacked the Mishmar Haemek settlement between Haifa and Jenin and British forces had to intervene. Three Jews were killed.

Jews attacked the Arab village of Sarafand, killing sixteen Arabs.

6 Apr.—Jews attacked an Army camp north of Hadera and killed four men who were on guard. They then destroyed the wireless mast and fired shots into the camp, killing the commanding officer and one other soldier.

Attacks were made on the railway between Zikhron Yaakov and Athlit, and a goods train was derailed.

8 Apr.—A large mine exploded on the Jerusalem-Jaffa road making it impassable and also disrupting the main water supply to Jerusalem.

Arabs recaptured the height of Castel on the Jaffa road. Their leader in the Jerusalem area, Abdul Qadir Husseini, was killed in the action.

#### PERSIA. 27 Mar.—Note (see U.S.S.R.).

1 Apr.—The Government, replying to the Note from the U.S.S.R. of 24 March, insisted that the assertions in the Soviet Note were 'interference in Persia's internal affairs'. They regretted that their previous reply to the first Soviet Note in January had not been 'properly considered' by the U.S.S.R., and continued: 'We take the Soviet Government's word that Persian refugees in Russia are not being organized to attack Persia.' They insisted that the U.S.S.R. was interfering in the affairs of the Azerbaijan province, Northern Persia. 'According to

reliable information, a secret broadcasting station against Persia is inside the U.S.S.R.'

**POLAND.** 24 Mar.—*Socialist International Organization.* The Socialist Party announced its decision to withdraw from the Organization and to sever relations with 'right-wing Socialists' in the West.

1 Apr.—A peninsula in the port of Szczecin, formerly Stettin, was leased to Czechoslovakia. It was understood that it would be equipped by the Czechoslovak Government which would use it as a duty-free zone for imports.

*Polish Resettlement Corps.* The Government, in a Note to Britain, proposed a revision of British policy with regard to the Corps, which, they declared, hindered the development of friendly relations between the two countries. They said they would be willing to revise their own policy and grant greater facilities to enable the remaining ex-servicemen to return home at the earliest possible moment.

**PORTUGAL.** 7 Apr.—*External trade.* The external trade figures for 1947 showed a deficit of 4,941,424,000 escudos as compared with 2,272,968,000 escudos in 1946.

**RUMANIA.** 28 Mar.—*Election.* A general election was held. The Front of People's Democracy (made up of the Workers' Party, in which Communists and Socialists were merged, the Ploughman's Front, the National Popular Party, and the Magyar Union) received 90·8 per cent of the votes and obtained 405 of the 415 seats in the Grand National Assembly. The Opposition parties seats were: National Liberal Party, 7; Democratic Peasant Party, 1; and one Independent.

**SIAM.** 7 Apr.—The Government, headed by Khuang Abhaiwongse, resigned.

**SOUTH AFRICA.** 19 Mar.—*Power Conflict.* The Prime Minister, General Smuts, speaking in the Senate, said: 'The great Powers should speak to one another as man to man. No one knows what Russia's position is. Russia says that she is just as much in the dark about the position of the western nations. She says she may have to defend herself from the western nations. The western nations say they have to defend themselves against Communism. World statesmen have to clear up this misunderstanding so that we can be clear about where we stand. If assurances must be given to Russia let us give them and if Russia is required to give assurances let her give them.'

29 Mar.—*Palestine.* Gen. Smuts, in a cable to Dr Weizmann, who had asked for his views on the Palestine situation, expressed anxiety lest something might happen there after the British withdrawal which would 'shock the world's conscience and even precipitate an international crisis'. He said, however, that he did not assume that partition was in immediate danger. 'The American proposal for United Nations trusteeship appears to be intended as an interim measure to prevent a terrible

situation such as may arise immediately on the termination of the British mandate and which has already begun. Britain has difficulties of her own and suffers from bitter disappointment over Palestine.' Appeal to the United Nations was in the circumstances 'not unreasonable'. 'I see no alternative to partition, but nobody wishes it to be achieved through massacre and international complications, and some interim measure may yet prevent irretrievable mischief.'

8 Apr.—*Whaling*. Whaling units returned from the Antarctic, and it was estimated that the total production for the season was 350,000 tons, worth roughly £35 million, which was three times the 1947 production.

SPAIN. 30 Mar.—Inclusion in E.R.P. (see *U.S.A.*).

31 Mar.—Inclusion in Economic Co-operation Bill (see *U.S.A.*).

1 Apr.—Inclusion in E.R.P. rescinded (see *U.S.A.*).

3 Apr.—*Argentine Credit*. The existing trade pact with Argentina was revised. In return for a new credit, amounting to some 4,500 million pesetas, which would be used to buy foodstuffs and essential goods for Spain, Argentina was to receive more Spanish exports and also acquired the right to invest the remaining debt in Spanish industrial enterprises, with special reference to shipbuilding and railway engineering. At the same time it was granted facilities to establish a free port at Cadiz, with special harbour installations and refrigeration plant, for use as a depot and distribution centre for its exports to Europe.

SWEDEN. 20 Mar.—*Defence*. The Defence Minister, Hr Vougt, declared that there would be no reduction in the defence services as suggested by the defence committee last autumn. Conscription for the forces would be as wide as possible. The mobilization organization would be brought up to date as a safety measure against *coups*.

TRANSJORDAN. 23 Mar.—Demonstration against British Treaty (see *Iraq*).

TRIESTE FREE TERRITORY. 20 Mar.—Three-Power proposal (see *Italy*).

22 Mar.—Reply to Three-Power proposal (see *Yugoslavia*).

The Trieste Area Council decided to send a telegram to Mr Molotov, asking for his support for the Three-Power proposal.

29 Mar.—British authorities stated that occupants of a British observation post some 300 yards inside the Anglo-American zone of the Free Territory, were fired upon by members of the Yugoslav Military Government police from the Yugoslav zone.

6 Apr.—Note to Yugoslavia on firing incident (see *Great Britain*).

TURKEY. 1 Apr.—*U.S. Aid*. President Inonu received in audience Gen. McBride, Admiral Settle, and Gen. Hoag, respectively chiefs of U.S. land, sea, and air aid to Turkey, who gave to him detailed information about the progress made in carrying out this aid.

2 Apr.—Foreign Minister's visit (see *Greece*).

3 Apr.—The new Soviet Ambassador, Mr Alexei Lavritchev, arrived in Ankara.

## UNITED NATIONS

### ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

29 Mar.—*Working Committee.* The British delegate asked the Committee to reject the Soviet proposals (see III, p. 359) which he described as 'fundamentally inadequate'. The Committee was adjourned till 5 April so that Mr Gromyko might reply.

30 Mar.—*Atomic Control Committee.* After proposals to dissolve the Committee had been made by the U.S.A., supported by Britain, Belgium, France, and Canada, Professor Skobeltsyn (U.S.S.R.) adjourned it indefinitely.

### BALKANS COMMISSION

24 Mar.—The Commission approved unanimously the conclusions of the first sub-committee, based on reports submitted by the Kilkis and Kozani observation groups, that rebels had crossed the border into Yugoslavia with the knowledge of the Yugoslav frontier authorities, that they were allowed to use Yugoslavia for operations against the Greek Army, and that there were indications that the Yugoslav military authorities had actively supported rebel operations.

### CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

23 Mar.—The conference opened in Geneva and Sr Carlos P. Romulo (Philippines) was elected president. Committees were set up on the basic tasks of the press, on the gathering and international transmission of news, on the free publication and reception of information, and on questions of law.

### ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

5 Apr.—A report on European production was published.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2 Apr.—*Palestine.* A special session was summoned for 16 April to consider further the question of the future government of Palestine.

### INTERNATIONAL BANK AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

5 Apr.—Statement of Bank policy (see *Inter-American Conference*).

8 Apr.—*Austria.* It was announced that Austria had been accepted for membership of the Bank and Fund.

### PALESTINE COMMISSION

31 Mar.—The Commission decided to take steps to organize a non-Palestinian police force to keep order in Jerusalem when the mandate was ended.

2 Apr.—The Commission resolved, with one dissenting vote (Denmark), 'to continue its work, bearing in mind the Security Council's

resolutions and on the understanding that all of its decisions will be subject to such final action on the future government of Palestine as may be taken by the special General Assembly.'

#### SECRETARIAT

23 Mar.—*Building Loan.* The Secretary-General, Mr Trygve Lie, signed an agreement with Mr Warren Austin (U.S.A.) for the loan by the U.S. Government, subject to Congressional approval, of \$65 million free of interest, and repayable in instalments over a period of thirty-two years to finance the construction of U.N. permanent headquarters.

28 Mar.—*Child Conscription.* Protest by Greece (see *Greece*).

1 Apr.—Mr Trygve Lie announced that Australia had offered a gift of raw wool to the value of £A1,100,000 to Greece, Poland, Yugoslavia, Austria, Hungary, and Italy.

#### SECURITY COUNCIL

19 Mar.—*Palestine.* Mr Warren Austin (U.S.A.) announced that U.S. support for the plan to partition Palestine had been withdrawn and proposed the setting-up of a temporary trusteeship for the whole of the country. He said the proposals were based on two considerations: (1) that, on the testimony of Jews and Arabs, the partition scheme could not be carried out peacefully; and (2) that the United Nations, by the Assembly's resolution, had not accepted responsibility for the government and administration of Palestine as a whole. It had accepted only certain limited responsibilities—for the city of Jerusalem and for the transfer of responsibility from the mandatory Power to the successor Governments—which were inseparable from the plan as a whole and were dependent upon the adoption and completion of the whole plan. Accordingly, without further action by the Assembly there would be, if the partition scheme could not be carried out as a whole, no Government in Palestine when the British surrendered the mandate on 15 May.

Mr Gromyko said he was struck by the contradiction between the U.S. proposals and the Assembly's resolution. He contested the thesis that the partition scheme could not be implemented by peaceful means. Dr Tsiang and M. Parodi agreed with the U.S. proposals provisionally.

Mr Trygve Lie, the Secretary-General, recalled that Australia had proposed a temporary trusteeship to the United Nations commission of enquiry in Palestine, but had withdrawn the proposal after discovering that it would be fought by both parties, and that more military forces might be required than under the partition scheme. He then asked whether, if the five great Powers accepted the trusteeship proposal, they would be prepared to see it through. Mr Austin replied that the U.S.A. was always prepared to back up the United Nations' decisions.

22 Mar.—*Czechoslovakia.* The Council considered the circumstances in which the existing Government in Czechoslovakia had taken office and the charges of Soviet complicity. Mr Papanek, former Czechoslovak delegate to the United Nations, made a statement to which both the U.S.S.R. and the Ukraine objected on the ground that a 'traitor' should not be encouraged 'to throw dirt against his own people'. Sir

Alexander Cadogan said the rape of Czechoslovakia followed too closely the methods by which other countries on the confines of the U.S.S.R. had been subjugated for that country to escape the suspicion, even if there were no evidence, of overt Soviet complicity. There were limits beyond which this tide must not advance, and it must be dammed back. Almost everyone in the world would hope this could be done by peaceful means, but 'there is an undeniable risk that that hope may not be fulfilled'. In judging the charges brought against the U.S.S.R., the council must be careful, scrupulous, and objective, 'but above all we must be very careful that we be not too easily fooled'. In conclusion he maintained that if in this case it were proved that the U.S.S.R. had violated one of the most important principles of the Charter, that might constitute a threat to international peace—a matter of concern to the Security Council.

23 Mar.—*Czechoslovakia.* M. Parodi (France) said Europe was witnessing the revival of evils, to suppress which the Great War just ended had been fought. The loyal collaboration of the Czechoslovak Government with the U.S.S.R., the friendly feeling of the Czechs too towards the great Slav people, even the presence of Communists in the Czech Government, had not been adequate pledges for the U.S.S.R. In a few hours it had had democracy replaced by a police State. Only a simple-minded people could believe that had happened without the Soviet Government having been informed or without its approval, or that the *coup d'Etat* could have been attempted without the proximity of the military forces of the Soviet Union.

Mr Gromyko denied that the Soviet Union had anything to do with the change in Czechoslovakia. The 'dirty and dishonest' complaint brought by Chile was obviously sponsored by leading circles in the United States who had been banking on reactionary and mercenary Czech politicians to drag Czechoslovakia into the enslavement of the Marshall Plan. The revolution there was the work of Czech patriots backed by the nation as a whole, which did not confuse its interests with those of the 'Stock Exchange sharks from Wall Street and the City of London'. The social changes brought about by the Communists in Czechoslovakia would be taking place in Italy, France, and Greece if the composition of their Governments was decided there instead of in Washington. Who had forced reorganization on the French Government? Who was employing 'rude pressure' and 'blackmail' to influence the Italian elections? Who held the Government of Greece at its discretion? And were these practices better democracy than the Czechoslovakian people's effort at settling their own affairs? It was to cover up their affairs that the U.S.A. and Britain had fished out for use against the U.S.S.R. 'old rubbish taken from the Goebbels kitchen of propaganda'. He concluded by accusing Sir Alexander Cadogan of repeating a 'fabrication' by quoting the Czechoslovak Trade Minister, Mr Grigor, as thanking the Soviet Union for the Communist success against reactionary forces. What Mr Grigor had said was: 'Thanks to our allies, and particularly the Soviet Union, our people do not have to fear hunger.'

The new Czechoslovak delegate, Mr Vladimir Houdek, did not take part in the discussions.

Mr Warren Austin (U.S.A.) protested that Mr Gromyko had given no answer to the grave charges raised. It would not free the poor Czech people from Soviet bondage to be told that the U.S.A. were interfering in the affairs of other countries. He challenged Mr Gromyko and the new delegate to the United Nations to say what Mr Zorin, the Soviet deputy Foreign Minister, did in Prague, and why President Benes refused to see him; and to explain how the Soviet Union's exclusive operation of Czechoslovakia's pitchblend deposits was consistent with the economic independence of Czechoslovakia, and other phenomena which appeared to indicate that Czechoslovakia was very much under the Soviet thumb. If the charges were proved his Government would consider that there had been indirect aggression and that the council ought to develop a system for the collective defence of the independence of all States, great and small.

24 Mar.—*Palestine*. Gen. McNaughton (Canada) said the permanent members could not agree to take effective military action under the present arrangements to keep order in Palestine. The Trusteeship also might be resisted, and there was obvious danger in the United Nations departing from one course of action to another unless they were assured that there was a 'meeting of minds' between the Powers that would have the responsibility of putting it into effect. For these reasons Canada could not at present advise in favour of any particular course. M. Parodi (France) invited the U.S. delegate to develop its Trusteeship thesis at private meetings of the Council. The delegates of Egypt and Lebanon supported the proposal to take the whole question back to the Assembly and promised the aid of the Arab States in bringing about a truce if there were no Zionist provocation. Rabbi Silver (Jewish Agency) read the Tel Aviv declaration (see p. 206) to the Council.

30 Mar.—*Palestine*. The Mufti of Jerusalem issued a statement saying that the Arabs of Palestine would not brook interference or encroachment by foreigners. 'The Arabs of Palestine hereby solemnly affirm that they do not recognize the right of any foreign power or powers to deprive them of their natural right to independence.'

Mr Austin (U.S.A.) introduced two resolutions: the first calling upon the Jewish Agency and Arab Higher Committee to make representatives available to the Council for the purpose of arranging a truce in Palestine, and upon the Arab and Jewish armed groups in Palestine to cease acts of violence immediately; the second requesting the Secretary-General under Article 20 of the Charter to convene a special Session of the General Assembly to consider further the question of the future government of Palestine.

Mr Gromyko (U.S.S.R.) said the U.S.S.R. opposed the U.S. proposal for a temporary trusteeship and that there were no grounds for convening a special session of the Assembly. The Palestine Commission should continue its work. The U.S. Government was killing partition because it put oil and strategic interests before U.N. interests.

31 Mar.—*Czechoslovakia*. Sr Santa Cruz (Chile) said that his country

had suffered from Soviet attempts to carry out a 'sinister and colossal plan to dominate and destroy western civilization by means of Communist fifth columns'. He described the Soviet Government as 'a brazen aggressor employing the methods of crude gangsterism'. Gen. McNaughton (Canada) said it was difficult to avoid the conclusion that the Communist Party had gained control in Czechoslovakia with some help from the U.S.S.R. It was also difficult, however, in a case where a strong, highly organized political group was known to be linked to an outside Power whose interests it advanced, to assess the degree of responsibility that should be borne by each. Dr Tsiang (China) favoured investigation, saying that the U.S.S.R. should welcome an investigation which, if its denials were correct, would serve to debunk the war-mongers.

1 Apr.—*Palestine*. Mr Shertok (Jewish Agency) protested that there was nothing in the Assembly's resolution to justify the thesis that because partition could not be implemented peacefully it must be dropped. If the will to implement it peacefully was there, the way could be found. The Jewish State was already an actual integral part of Palestine, and, come what may, the Jewish people were determined to get arms to defend it. He stated in the strongest terms Jewish objections to the revision of the Assembly's resolution, or to trusteeship, and warned the Council that unless they took appropriate action, Jerusalem might fall, after the British gave up control, 'under the tyranny of the infamous and impious Arabs'. The Jews had surrendered their particular claims to Jerusalem, in deference to the opinion of the Assembly, in favour of an international régime for the Holy City. But they had expected the United Nations to enforce that régime. If they could not then the Jews would have to do their utmost to defend the city and its 100,000 Jewish inhabitants.

Dr Arce (Argentina) and M. Nizot (Belgium) said they would support both the U.S. resolutions. Argentina did not think an imposed settlement would work in Palestine, and in any case the two great Powers which backed it had fallen out. Belgium said that the situation quite simply was that the Council had, as it was entitled to do, refused to accept the Assembly's request that it implement the partition scheme, and was under an obligation to give the Assembly an opportunity of considering the situation. The truce proposal was unanimously agreed to and the other proposal passed, the U.S.S.R. and Ukraine abstaining. Mr Gromyko later pointed out that the decision to convoke the Assembly and the attempt to arrange a truce did not connote that the Palestine Commission should suspend its work on the partition scheme; other members said that while the Council had no power to stop the Commission, they hoped the Commission would draw logical consequences from the fact that the partition scheme was to come under Assembly review.

3 Apr.—*Italy*. Britain, the U.S.A., and France jointly requested that the applications of Italy and Transjordan for membership of the United Nations should be placed on the agenda of the Council with a view to their being admitted at the special session of the Assembly on 16 April.

5 Apr.—*Palestine*. Mr Warren Austin met other members of the Council (except the Soviet and Ukrainian delegates, who declined the invitation) informally and gave them the U.S. ideas on temporary trusteeship. He considered it should be of indefinite duration, but subject to prompt termination as soon as a majority of each of the Arab and Jewish communities agreed on a plan for the future government of their country. The United Nations would itself be the administering authority but would vest its responsibility in a trusteeship council, and the day-to-day exercise of administrative, legislative, and judicial powers would be exercised through a separate body called the Government of Palestine, which would consist of a governor-general, a cabinet, and a democratically elected legislature. If the legislature were not able to assemble or function, the governor-general would be empowered to act by decree. For maintaining law and order within Palestine, the projected Government would rely on local police and volunteer forces, recruited in accordance with Article 84 of the Trusteeship Charter. Should these for any reason be insufficient, the governor-general would be authorized to call upon the assistance of certain States, still to be chosen, which would have to give—in a protocol to the trusteeship agreement—an undertaking to accept the responsibility on specified conditions. The projected Government of Palestine should, under the trusteeship agreement, be enabled to take over on a temporary basis the existing arrangements in Palestine, pending the establishment of the organs specified in the agreement. That would make it at least permissive for the British administration and military forces to continue functioning after 15 May. It would be part of the governor-general's task to take all steps to bring about a final agreement between the Arabs and Jews. Meanwhile, a basic condition of the trusteeship would be that it was without prejudice to the rights, claims, and position of either the Arabs or the Jews, or to the character of the eventual settlement.

6 Apr.—*Czechoslovakia*. The Council decided by nine votes to two (the U.S.S.R. and the Ukraine) to invite the Czechoslovak Government to be represented at the Council's discussion of complaints of Soviet interference in Czechoslovak internal politics.

7 Apr.—*Palestine*. In further informal talks M. Parodi said that the U.S. trusteeship scheme raised serious difficulties, which must be resolved if the General Assembly was not, in turn, to be faced with a deadlock. These arose, in the first place, from the definition of 'States directly concerned'. Secondly, a temporary agreement between the Arabs and the Jews on immigration matters before May 15 was required; and the terms of trusteeship contemplated contained no details on administration, minorities, or the creation of a police force. These questions could not be left to the sole discretion of the Governor, and in any case their solution would require considerable time.

The President of the Council, Dr Lopez, held talks with Jews and Arabs separately on the question of a truce.

8 Apr.—*Italy*. The Ukraine asked that the application for membership of Italy should be considered along with that of Bulgaria, Hungary, Rumania, and Finland, and that Albania and Mongolia should be placed

on the agenda by way of balancing Trans-Jordan. Britain, U.S.A., and France asked for reconsideration of the applications of Eire, Portugal, and Austria.

*Palestine.* The President again had talks with Jews and Arabs separately in an attempt to agree to a truce.

#### WORLD TRADE CONFERENCE

**23 Mar.**—Dr Molinari (Argentina) announced that Argentina would not join the International Trade Organization. The Conference was setting up a 'super state' and his country would never give up its national sovereignty to the extent of asking any international organization for prior approval of its economic policies.

**24 Mar.**—*I.T.O. Charter.* The final act, drawing up the Charter of an International Trade Organization, was signed by the delegates of fifty-three nations. Argentina and Poland refused to sign, and the Turkish delegate said that it would have to wait for further instructions.

Mr S. L. Holmes (Britain) said his Government would recommend the Charter to Parliament but approval would depend on circumstances not fully under its control. The Charter was not wholly satisfactory to Britain, which had agreed to negotiate for limitation, reduction, and even elimination of Empire Preferences, while it opened the door to new regional preferences on the 'accidental basis of geography'. Britain would watch the administration of this article to see that there was no unfairness between the treatment of the Commonwealth and that of the other economic groups.

The Charter created an International Trade Organization, designed to be a world association of trading nations open to all countries. The purpose and objectives of the charter and of the I.T.O. were balanced and expanding world economy, to be achieved by raising the demand for goods and services, by increasing real incomes, and by increasing production and facilitating the exchange of goods. Economic development of backward countries and a flow of capital for productive investment were also envisaged. Trade barriers such as tariffs would be reduced, and barriers such as import quotas, which discriminated to the advantage of one country against another, would be gradually abolished through mutually advantageous negotiations. It was agreed that each country must achieve and maintain full employment if world trade was to be expanded, and members undertook to avoid measures creating balance-of-payments difficulties for other members, and to eliminate sub-standard conditions of labour. Economic development of the less developed countries, and the expansion of their industries, agriculture, and general production of export goods was to be achieved with the minimum of damage to world trade. Rules were laid down governing the making of new preference arrangements between countries mutually concerned with economic development. Members were pledged to encourage and not to discriminate against foreign investments, and to provide fair compensation in the event of nationalization. Members would negotiate to reduce tariffs substantially and to eliminate import tariff preferences. Internal taxes and internal trade regulations were not

to be more severe on imports from other members than on national products. A general ban on quantitative import or export restrictions was imposed. Certain exceptions related to the post-war transition period, to countries in balance-of-payments difficulties, and to countries with domestic programmes for stabilizing farm prices. The temporary use of subsidies was authorized, provided that they did not result in export prices lower than domestic prices. Members agreed to prevent practices, such as monopolies and cartels, which restricted trade. Condemned practices included price-fixing, exclusion from markets, allocating customers, fixing production quotas, and suppressing technical information. Members agreed to settle their commercial disputes through the I.T.O. procedures and not to resort to economic warfare. They would be allowed considerable freedom in their trade dealings with non-members, and the Organization itself would decide on relations with Germany and Japan. The charter would enter into force sixty days after more than half the countries signing the final act had deposited instruments of acceptance. It was not expected that this could happen before 1949. Provision was made for future admission of countries absent from the conference, and of non-members of the United Nations.

**U.S.A. 19 Mar.—Power Conflict.** Mr Marshall, speaking at the University of California, said: 'In view of all that has already been said, I am uncertain as to what I might add to convince the American people that this is a world-wide struggle between freedom and tyranny, between the self-rule of the many as opposed to the dictatorship of a ruthless few. It should now be perfectly clear that rule based on threats and force, instead of on reason and justice, must not be allowed to spread further unchecked. We have an acknowledged position of leadership in the world. We have been spared the destruction of war, which literally flattened Europe. We are enjoying a high degree of prosperity. These things being so the character and strength of our leadership may well be decisive in the present situation. We cannot evade the issue by the negative procedure of inaction. By so doing we would vacate our dominant position of leadership, and thereby revert to a secondary role, a role which inevitably would deprive each of us of those American principles of freedom and justice we have always upheld by every means available.

**Italy.** 'In connection with the electoral campaign now in progress in Italy, the leaders of the Communist Party have given their interpretation to the policy of the U.S.A. in connection with the outcome of these elections. They publicly asserted that if their party, the Communist Party, was victorious at the polls, U.S. assistance to Italy would continue without change. I have only this comment to make regarding that interpretation of the policy of the U.S.A. The E.R.P. has been created on the basis of the voluntary association of 16 nations, who came together of their own free will and drew up a programme of mutual self-help for their economic recovery. The U.S.A. has undertaken to assist these co-operating countries in this large task. However, on the other side the record is unmistakable. Every European nation under the influ-

ence of the Communists has been prevented from participation in E.R.P., some clearly against their own wishes. Since the association is entirely voluntary, the people of any nation have a right to change their mind and, in effect, withdraw if they choose to vote into power a government in which the dominant political force would be a party the hostility of which to this programme has been frequently, publicly, and emphatically proclaimed. This could only be considered as evidence of the desire of that country to dissociate itself from the programme. This Government would have to conclude that Italy had removed itself from the benefits of E.R.P. We shall continue to do everything possible to reach an agreement, but until such time as a real settlement can be reached, it must be our policy to discourage and to oppose further encroachment on the rights and lives of free peoples.'

Palestine proposals (*see Security Council*).

20 Mar.—*Trieste*. Three-Power proposal (*see Italy*).

22 Mar.—*Economic Mission*. Study of Japanese economy (*see Japan*).  
*Trieste*.—Yugoslav Note (*see Yugoslavia*).

*Interim Aid*. The House of Representatives passed the Bill giving \$55 million additional interim aid to France, Italy, and Austria.

23 Mar.—*U.S.S.R.* The Soviet Ambassador, Mr A. Panyushkin, speaking to the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, said that after Russia's present demobilization was completed the Red Army would be made up solely of men born in 1926 and 1927. He said that a monstrous slander campaign was being waged against the U.S.S.R. Any desire for freedom on the part of its neighbours was being distorted by propaganda into an act of aggression by the U.S.S.R.

*Coal Strike*. The United Mine Workers' Union, representing the soft-coal strikers, rejected a proposal for the appointment of a fact-finding board. President Truman issued an executive order creating a board of enquiry on the strike.

*United Nations*. Loan agreement (*see United Nations Secretariat*).

*European Recovery Programme*. Beginning the Debate, the House of Representatives accepted a recommendation that it be limited to fifteen hours.

*Greece and Turkey*. The Senate passed the Aid Bill without a division.

*Germany*. A White House statement referring to the announcement on 27 January that the State Department would take over the non-military aspects of the occupation in July, said that it was now considered inadvisable to make any changes in the present administrative arrangements (by which the administration was in the hands of the Army).

24 Mar.—*Defence*. It was stated by the aircraft manufacturer, Mr Glenn L. Martin, that the U.S.A. had developed a radio-active cloud that killed any one who came in contact with it and was effective over a much larger area than the atom bomb. The cloud was spread by wind and its use required sure knowledge of weather conditions. The U.S. Navy had perfected guided missiles with a homing device. 'We can sink a ship even if it is halfway across the ocean. All we have to do is to get our own ships out of the way.' He also mentioned new bacterial

weapons, some of them capable of lying dormant for a time and then making the victim ill with an illness from which he did not recover.

25 Mar.—*Defence*. The Secretary of Defence, Mr Forrestal, appeared before the Senate Armed Forces Committee and asked for an increase in the authorized strength of the three services by 349,500 men and an increase in the budget from \$11,000 million to \$14,000 million.

26 Mar.—*Palestine*. President Truman, in a statement to the press, said that if the United Nations agreed to a temporary trusteeship for Palestine, the U.S.A. would take its share of the responsibility and would be prepared to lend 'every appropriate assistance' in preventing bloodshed and in reaching a peaceful final settlement. He said that, to avert tragedy in Palestine, an immediate truce between Arabs and Jews must be reached, and the Security Council should at once call upon representatives of the two communities to come to the council table to arrange it.

*Defence*. President Truman issued a proclamation making a wide range of military articles subject to export control after 5 April. The proclamation listed eleven categories which, on the advice of the Munitions Control Board, were now considered implements of war under the Neutrality Act.

Statement on U.S. policy (*see Japan*).

*Germany*. The Government, replying to the Soviet Note of 6 March, said there was nothing in any agreement relating to Germany which prevented any of the Powers from discussing questions of common concern. They noted that the U.S.S.R. continues to fail to recognize that the three Powers have been obliged to consult among themselves as a result of Russia's unwillingness to implement the principles of economic unity, as well as other principles of the Potsdam agreement. The Note rejected the Soviet charges that the question of creating a unified Anglo-American zone was not submitted for consideration of the Control Council. The intention to unify the zones was conveyed to the Council on 20 July 1946, and the announcement that the two zones were to be unified was made on 30 July 1946. 'Under the guise of reparations Russia has taken into its possession, in gigantic trusts, major industrial establishments in the eastern zone, accounting for 25 to 30 per cent of the total remaining industrial productive capacity.' The Note charged the U.S.S.R. with unilateral policy with respect to political activity and added: 'Basic human rights are being denied to the population, while concentration camps are being used anew for individuals unwilling to accept this new totalitarianism. It is the unilateral policy of the U.S.S.R. which has cut off eastern Germany from its natural intercourse, political and economic, with western Germany. By a sincere effort to arrive at reasonable compromises, the U.S.A., Britain, and France have been able to arrive at many agreed positions, only to find Russia not ready to seek solutions acceptable to all four Powers.'

*Berlin*. Mr Marshall told the press: 'In accordance with international agreements binding on all four control Powers, the U.S.A. intends to continue to fulfil its responsibilities as a member of the Control Council and as a joint occupant of the city of Berlin. The Soviet boycott of four-

Power meetings could only be construed as an intention, which the U.S.A. does not share, to renounce efforts to obtain four-Power agreement on policies for Germany and would be regarded as unilateral action aimed against the unification of Germany.' U.S. representatives had been trying for three years—and were still trying—to obtain the effective economic and political unification of Germany. Their efforts had to a large extent been frustrated by the tactics of the Soviet representative on the Allied Control Council.

**28 Mar.—Power Conflict.** In an address at Toledo, Ohio, Mr Martin, Speaker of the House of Representatives, declared that the Russians had 'wantonly, cynically, sadistically, and with calculation and deliberation' violated every principle of civilized international justice. They had embarked upon 'the same kind of desperate attempt at world domination that the mad Hitler and his brutal minions tried'. The U.S.A. was the only great nation left that could head a world movement to stop this onward sweep of despotism. 'We intend to stop these madmen from subjugating and enslaving Europe and Asia. We must stop them.'

**29 Mar.—Defence.** Mr Bernard Baruch, giving the House of Representatives Armed Forces Committee his views on training and the draft, said: 'The greatest single necessity in the world to-day is for America to make up its mind where it stands, so that the other free peoples on the earth know where to rally. Unless we come to a decision among ourselves we invite the scattering of our friends and another war.' He recommended the immediate adoption of universal military training and the re-enactment of the draft. He also wanted a total plan for industrial and economic mobilization, so that universal training rested upon a solid foundation of total preparedness, and a new agency to watch the impact of partial mobilization on national economy.

**Interim Aid.** The Senate approved the appropriation of \$55 million of additional funds for interim aid to Italy, France, and Austria.

**30 Mar.—European Recovery Programme.** The House of Representatives approved the inclusion of Spain in E.R.P. by 149 votes to 52.

**Palestine.** A former British army officer, Major Samuel Weiser, announced that he was organizing the 'George Washington Legion' to help defend the Jewish State. He hoped to enroll between 15,000 and 20,000 volunteers in the U.S.A. and Canada.

**31 Mar.—European Recovery Programme.** The House of Representatives passed the Economic Co-operation Act by 329 votes to 74. It provided for aid to the extent of \$6,205 million, which included \$5,300 million as the first year cost of the Marshall Plan, \$275 million for military aid to Greece and Turkey, and \$150 million military aid and \$420 million economic aid for China, and \$60 million for the United Nations Children's Fund. The House also reaffirmed by a 188 to 104 standing vote its invitation to Spain to join in the Marshall Plan.

**1 Apr.—Spain.** President Truman said he was utterly opposed to the inclusion of Spain in the E.R.P.

The Senate and House Foreign Affairs Committees, meeting in conference, decided to omit all reference to Spain from the final form of the Foreign Aid Bill.

**Defence.** President Truman, in a letter to the Speaker of the House, asked for immediate authority to place contracts amounting to \$375 million for 'stockpiling' strategic and critical war materials. He said he had instructed Mr Forrestal to submit a request for an additional \$3,000 million for defence.

**2 Apr.—European Recovery Programme.** The Senate and House of Representatives approved the Foreign Aid Bill as agreed by their Joint Committee, and sent it to the President for his signature.

**Defence.** Defence Secretary Forrestal, in evidence before the Senate Armed Services Committee, asked Congress to adopt universal military training and conscription. The day of push-button warfare had not yet arrived, and new inventions could not yet do away with the need for man-power in war.

**Taxation.** Both Houses of Congress passed the Tax Reduction Bill against the President's veto.

**4 Apr.—European Recovery Programme.** President Truman signed the Economic Co-operation Act of 1948.

**5 Apr.—**Mr Lovett, Acting Secretary of State, received M. Spaak, Belgian Prime Minister, who was on a visit.

**European Recovery Programme.** The first shipments under the programme left U.S. ports.

President Truman ordered the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to make \$1,105 million immediately available to permit a 'prompt initiation' of the foreign recovery programme.

Message from Mr Attlee, Mr Bevin, and M. Bidault (see Great Britain).

**6 Apr.—European Recovery Programme.** President Truman nominated Mr Paul G. Hoffmann, president of the Studebaker Corporation, as administrator.

**8 Apr.—Defence.** President Truman, in a letter to the House Appropriations Committee, asked for an additional \$725 million for immediate expansion of the air force.

**U.S.S.R. 21 Mar.—Trieste.** Moscow radio said the three-Power proposal for Trieste (see Italy) was 'intended to revise the peace treaty with Italy behind the back of the U.S.S.R. It is openly admitted that the most important aim of the Anglo-American-French proposal is to influence Italian electors. Their intention is to force them to vote at the elections for the reactionary parties which are the agents of the U.S.A. The declaration is by no means motivated by concern for the Italian people, as its originators apparently try to make out.'

**23 Mar.—Ambassador's statement** (see U.S.A.).

**25 Mar.—Germany.** Note (see Great Britain).

**26 Mar.—Germany.** Note (see U.S.A.).

**27 Mar.—Persia.** The Government, in reply to Persia's Note of 5 February (see p. 90), said that statements of the Persian Government with regard to U.S. military advisers in Persia, which alleged that those advisers did not hold key posts, nor did they have authority to direct affairs in the Persian Ministry of War or other military departments, were without foundation. It cited as evidence of this the U.S.-Persian

agreement of October, 1947, which, it said, stipulated co-operation with the Persian Ministry of War and men of the Persian Army. It described as 'an injurious fairy tale' Persian allegations that the U.S.S.R. had taken any part in the affairs of Azerbaijan. It also rejected Persian charges that the U.S.S.R. was giving refuge to anti-Government Persians. Persian allegations that Persian political refugees in Russia were forming military units for the purpose of attacking Persia, and were operating a secret radio station, were described as 'provocative fabrications'. Other Persian charges of Russian military units and manoeuvres near the Persian frontier were 'nonsense'. The Note added that efforts of the Persian Government to make out that the Soviet Note of 31 January (see p. 101) was an interference in the internal affairs of Persia must be taken as an endeavour on the part of the Persian Government to evade political responsibility, and that the course which was being pursued by the Persian Government was contrary to good-neighbourly relations as provided in the Persian-Soviet treaty of February 1921.

6 Apr.—*Treaty with Finland.* The Government concluded a treaty with Finland to strengthen good neighbourly relations. The preamble said the treaty was in the interests of both countries and considered 'Finland's desire to remain out of the conflicting interests of the great Powers'.

'Article 1. In the event of Finland, or the Soviet Union through Finnish territory, becoming the object of an armed attack by Germany or of any State allied with the latter, Finland will, true to its obligations as an independent State, fight to repel the attack. Finland will in such cases use all its available forces for defending its territorial integrity by land, sea, and air, and will do so within the frontiers of Finland in accordance with obligations prescribed in the present agreement, and if necessary, with the assistance of, or jointly with, the U.S.S.R. In the cases mentioned the Soviet Union will give Finland the help required, the giving of which will be subject to mutual agreement between the contracting parties.'

Article 2. The contracting parties would confer, if it was established that there was the threat of an armed attack provided for in the first Article.

Article 3. The parties would sincerely participate in all measures towards the maintenance of world peace and security in conformity with the aims of the U.N.

Article 4. The parties confirmed their pledge, given under Article 3 of the Peace Treaty signed in Paris in February 1947, not to conclude any alliance or join any coalition directed against the other contracting party.

Article 5. Both parties undertook to act in a spirit of co-operation and friendship towards the further development and consolidation of economic and cultural relations between the two countries.

Article 6. The parties pledged themselves to observe the principle of the mutual respect of sovereignty and integrity and that of non-interference in the internal affairs of the other State.

Article 7. Execution of the agreement should take place in accordance with the principles of the U.N.

Article 8. The agreement would remain in force for ten years. It would come into effect upon the exchange of ratifications. Subsequently, the pact would remain in force for a five-year period provided it had not been denounced one year before the end of each period.

*Germany. Note (see France).*

WESTERN UNION. 24 Mar.—Treaty of Brussels ratified (*see Belgium*).

YEMEN. 19 Mar.—It was understood that on about 13 March, forces of the Amir Abbas, a son of the late Imam Yahya, stormed San'a and captured Sayed Abdullah. The Amir Ahmad, eldest son of Imam Yahya and recognized as heir-apparent by his father, then entered the capital as the new Imam.

Prime Minister in Cairo (*see Egypt*).

21 Mar.—Sayf-ul-Islam Ahmad recognized as Imam (*see Arab League*).

YUGOSLAVIA. 22 Mar.—*Trieste.* The Government, in Notes to Britain, the U.S.A., and France on the three-Power proposal for Trieste, stated that 'while it was necessary to obtain Italy's consent, it was not deemed necessary to obtain the consent of Yugoslavia. This method of procedure leads to the supposition that the aim of the proposal is not to find the best solution of the Trieste problem and the regularization of relations between the peoples of southern Europe, but that it is in the nature of propaganda and does not conduce to the consolidation of world peace'. It concluded: 'The Government maintain that to advance such a proposal during the Italian electoral campaign can only serve to support a chauvinist hatred against the peoples of Yugoslavia and poison internal relations in Italy. Neither of these courses is in the interest of the Italian people or, indeed, in the interest of peace in this part of Europe.'

The Foreign Minister, Mr Simic, told the press that Yugoslavia was ready to re-open talks on Trieste 'in the spirit and on the basis of the talks held between Marshal Tito and Signor Togliatti in 1946' (whereby Italy would acquire Trieste in exchange for Gorizia on certain political conditions). Although Yugoslavia had agreed at the peace conference to the establishment of the Trieste Free Territory in the interest of peace, it had always felt that internationalization would mean internal discord. The Government had always reckoned that direct negotiations could result in a satisfactory agreement. Yugoslavia was ready to negotiate with any Italian Government, no matter what its political colour.

26 Mar.—*Trieste.* Marshal Tito described the western Powers' proposal to cede Trieste to Italy as an electoral trick intended to prevent the democratic forces in Italy from defending in a solid mass their liberty and their independence. It was preventing them from evicting from Italy those who had come without any invitation.

Italy ready to open negotiations (*see Italy*).

Special amnesty (*see Italy*).

31 Mar.—*Trieste*. Sforza statement (*see Italy*).

1 Apr.—*Child Conscription*. The newsgency *Tanjug* reported that over 5,000 children from Greek guerrilla territories had entered Yugoslavia 'to escape increasing bombardment and kidnapping by Greek monarcho-Fascist troops'.

6 Apr.—*Trieste*. British protest (*see Great Britain*).

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

April 11 Combined Research Conference on Some Aspects of the German Problem, Scheveningen, Netherlands.  
" 12 Third Conference of the 16 Nations on the European Recovery Programme, Paris.  
" 16 Special Session of U.N. General Assembly to discuss Palestine, Lake Success.  
" 18 General Election in Italy.  
" 25 Conference of Socialist Parties on Western Union, Paris.  
" 30 W.F.T.U.: Discussion on Marshall Plan, Rome.  
May 7 Congress of United Europe Organization, The Hague.  
" 9 Election in South Korea.  
" 15 Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, India.  
" 15 Termination of British Mandate for Palestine.  
" 17 Conference of International Non-Governmental Organizations, Geneva.  
" 21 Annual Congress of the Liberal International, Zürich.  
" 23 General Election in Czechoslovakia.  
" 26 General Election in South Africa.  
June 1 Arab and Jewish States in Palestine to be formed.  
" 1 I.C.A.O. Conference, Geneva.  
" 4 International Socialist Conference, Vienna.  
" 8 International Chamber of Commerce, Paris.  
" 10 World Power Conference, Stockholm.  
" 17 I.L.O. Conference, San Francisco.  
July 12 Economic and Social Council, Geneva.  
Aug. 1 Completion of British withdrawal from Palestine.  
" 22 First Assembly of the World Council of Churches, Amsterdam.  
Sept. 21 U.N. General Assembly, Paris.  
" 27 British Africa Conference, London.  
Oct. 1 Arab and Jewish States to become independent.